

INSIDE

Your quality Australian weekly soccer paper for the new millennium

SOCCER

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MORI AND YOUNG LEAD THE CHARGE

By Aidan Ormond

Goals and drama! NSL fans lapped it up last weekend as all-time NSL top scorer Damian Mori and Wollongong Wolves import Stuart Young led the way with four goals each as the NSL went 'Goal Crazy'. A total of 40 goals were scored in eight games, an impressive average of five goals per game.

Who said the NSL wasn't a wild ride and, with the finals so open this year, it's likely to continue as we move into the final four crucial rounds before the play-offs.

Plus there was drama too.

Newcastle's gutsy 2-1 away win at the cauldron of Perth Oval played while the club's messy financial situation was splashed all over the media.

And yes the club's office phone was disconnected over the weekend.

Meanwhile down in Canberra disgruntled players slammed the Scottish imports for "doing nothing" (see story below) after Cosmos was thrashed 6-0 at home.

But it all began last Friday night with 24 goals in four games, including a 5-3 away win by South over Carlton at Olympic Park.

What these Melbourne derbies lack in history they make up for in sheer excitement. We've seen 4-4 draws, 5-0 thrashings and even a 2-1 Grand Final win.

Again, this latest installment had it all, including a goal by Carlton's comeback kid (and what a player he is) Simon Colosimo, and Fausto de Amicis' unbelievable strike that fairly

zoomed past the keeper; it brought back memories of Damian Mori's Grand Final goal some years ago.

Speaking of Mori, he was up to his old tricks over in Adelaide with a four-goal haul, while in Canberra Stuart Young was inflicting similar damage on a ten-man Cosmos. Even Power got into the act, thumping the luckless Sydney United 4-0. Power is still an outside bet for the six.

Young (inset left) said the reason for Wolves' success was the light-hearted nature of the Wollongong dressing room. "We play better when the tension is relieved before a game with joviality ... you can't buy team spirit."

He added that Wolves is "the most exciting team I have ever played with. I had a gut feeling when I arrived that this team was a bit special."

Young has scored 16 goals so far, surely one of the better returns for an import.

All the NSL news and match analysis of this weekend to remember is inside.

Following on from their 6-0 defeat on Friday night, the gloves have come off at Canberra Cosmos. Unhappy players have spilled the beans to *Inside Soccer* on what they feel is the reason why the team has struggled so much of late.

"Mate, these Scottish imports have done nothing, but they are happy to take a good wage. Just ask the fans, they are crying out for more of the local players to get us some better results," said one unhappy player.

Continued page two



Paul Wade

Mori's all-time goalscoring feat deserved more hype.

Luke Casserly

On the eve of his Swedish move.

Kimon Taliadoros

From Channel 9 to Parra Power.

Troy Halpin



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Crooky

This Saturday night we are heading up the Pacific Highway to take on Canberra Cosmos at North Power Stadium, Gosford and everyone at the club is looking forward to the match.

We tried to play a match in Gosford earlier in the season but the ground was not ready but its second time lucky and we will be up there on Saturday night.

We had our first full training session at the ground on Monday afternoon and the surface is very good.

We already knew what a wonderful stadium it was but to have a flat surface is fantastic.

Interest in the match on the Central Coast has been high and

we are looking forward to getting a big crowd on Easter Saturday.

There has been a little talk amongst the fans, some of whom are not completely happy with the transfer, but I can assure the fans that a permanent move to Gosford is not on the agenda.

If it is a tremendous success we might move the odd game to Gosford during the holiday periods, but North Sydney Oval is our place and preferred home ground and we have such a tremendous supporter base, we would not move!

Last week we did some school clinics and appearances at North Power Stadium and it is amazing how many kids knew about the Northern Spirit and have travelled down the highway to watch us go around at North Sydney Oval.

This match is a just reward for the support we have received from the people of the Central Coast.

But, at the end of the day it is an NSL match and there are three very important competition points on offer against Canberra.

We went down 4-2 against Adelaide Force, thanks to four goals from Damien Mori.

There is no doubt he was the difference between the two sides, as he just seems to know where the back of the net is and how to find it.

His goals were a combination of skill and being in the right place at the right time, both of which are great attributes for a striker to have.

In contrast we missed a couple of golden chances in front of goal and it could easily have finished 4-4.

I must say that Ryan Griffiths did very well again, scoring the first goal of the game, his third in four matches, as he continues to improve.

Ian Crook,
Northern Spirit and England



Coasties striker hits four

It's been one of those weekends. NSL strikers Damien Mori and Stuart Young scored four each. Super League striker Nathan Bym, from Central Coast Coasties, also scored a hat-trick plus one last weekend.

This is a perfect preparation for the Coasties' first game at the 25,000 seater North Power Stadium at Gosford. Club publicist Ray Sandell was certain the game - played as a double header with Northern Spirit playing Cosmos

in the late game - would be a huge success.

"It's a real soccer hotbed on the Coast. We hope many fans from Sydney make the trip and enjoy what is a marvellous stadium," he said.

Spirit coach Graham Arnold is expected to rush Rudan and Enes, who were both suspended on Friday night, into the starting line.

Spirit will train at North Power Stadium all week before Saturday's clash.

They kick-off at 7.30pm in the late game.

S-news

Inside Soccer's
Australian news
and gossip

BUCKING BANKERS?

Inside Soccer was deluged with irate phone calls, mainly from NSW, after the ABC cut short the Glory v Breakers TV game on Sunday. We can't print most of what was said - something that rhymes with bucking bankers, suffice to say, Ian Parmenter from Consuming Passions (the pre-recorded cooking show aired at 6.55pm) got a serve, as did ABC Sport's commitment to football. And to top it off, his recipe was crap too! You can't win can you.

WIN FREE MOVIE TICKETS

Go to page 25 to find out how you can win tickets to 'The Cup', a great new movie opening this week. And in other movie news, Australian movie-star Mel Gibson is to turn Manchester United's players into film stars. Gibson's film company, Icon Productions, is making a fly-on-the-wall documentary about the Treble winners. Filming began this season, and the cameras followed United to Tokyo to witness their triumph over Palmeiras in the Intercontinental Cup and were also with them in Brazil for the World Club Championship. Bosnich was involved in these games. The cameras have been filming board meetings and they were there to record the clinching of the club's record \$80 million sponsorship deal with Vodafone. The movie opens in October.

BERND FOR ONE YEAR

At a press-conference yesterday Perth Glory said they would offer coach Bernd Stange a one-year contract. If the club made the next WCC it would retain him for that. Club GM Roger Lefort also said it was "unacceptable" for defender Hamilton Thorp to throw his shirt off after being subbed on the weekend. Glory has also confirmed Subiaco Oval as its finals venue.

FOURRRRRRRRRRR

NSW Fed's Golf day is happening on May 10. S-news is hopeless at Golf, but expect Farina and Arnold to front. It will be at St Michaels Golf Course, Maroubra. Inquiries? Call 96291800, or E-mail info@soccernsw.com.au.

CONGRATULATIONS STUART YOUNG

Not content with scoring 16 NSL goals since he arrived, popular English striker from the Wolves, Stuart Young, is also a father for the first time. Welcome to the world a little Aussie

named Jacob Matthew Young.

YOUNG SOCCEROO CAMP

After last week's story on Ljubo Milicevic and Alvan Ergic, readers were asking who was in camp with the Young Socceroos. Interestingly, two players come from Victorian Premier League side Altona Magic. Altona has produced some wonderful Young Socceroos in the past, including John Little and Alan Davidson. Also young Anthony Pelikan scored for Melbourne Knights last weekend against the Kingz. Here is the squad list, in alphabetical order.

BRODIE Todd	MARCONI Joshua	CAS-
SAR Damien	GIPPSLAND Gippeland	CATANZARO
SIMON Northern Spirit	CULIBRK Radi	
SOUTH Melbourne	CVETANOVSKI Johnny	
ALTONA Magic	ERGIC Ivan	PERTH
GLORY ELRICH	AHMAD Parramatta	
GASPAR Robert	SYDNEY Olympic	GOULD-
ING Aaron	SASI Griffiths	RYAN
NORTHERN Spirit	GULESSERIAN Kevo	
MARCONI KENNEDY		
CARLTON LAST	GRANT Marconi	
MACALLISTER Dylan	SYDNEY Olympic	
MILICEVIC Ljubo	PERTH MINER	
RUSSELL GAS	MOT Lee	SYDNEY
OLYMPIC MOTSIPOULOS	ANGLO Carlton	
MRKELA Steven	ALTONA Magic	NASH
MATTHEW NSWIS	NORTH Jade	BRISBANE
OWENS Greg	NEWCASTLE PANTELIS	LUCAS
ADELAIDE Force	PELIKAN Anthony	
MELBOURNE Knights	REDDY Liam	
PARRAMATTA SRHOJ	WAYNE Brisbane	SUL-
LIVAN Beren	WOLLONGONG TANCHESKI	
CHRIS Newcastle	THOMPSON Matthew	
PARRAMATTA TURNBULL	MICHAEL Marconi	
VAN STRATTEN Jess	NORTHERN Spirit	
VASILEVSKI Daniel	CARLTON	

REID ALL ABOUT IT: BROTHERS ON TOP OF THE WORLD

Two brothers' teams sit on top of their respective competitions. David Reid (number six) for Bonnyrigg White Eagles in the Super League and Paul Reid (number seven) for Wollongong Wolves in the NSL. Both are former players for Campbelltown United, Churches, Campbelltown Police Youth (having won three Champion of Champions between them), Macarthur and Marconi.

Continued from front page

This is not a player with any history of complaining at the drop of a hat, but a good solid professional who loves his club and dearly wants it to succeed.

Inside Soccer understands there has been simmering tension for some time between some "big mouth" Scottish players and the Aussies lads at Canberra.

At half-time in a recent game players came to blows in the dressing room, with coach Tom Semanni having to separate them. One Scottish player threatened a firebrand Aussie and it was on for young and old.

"At the start of the year I would have said we could have maybe made the six. Then these guys came in and I guess the coach feels he has to play them to justify their pay packets.

"One is going back to Europe straight after the season finishes," added the player.

Another high-profile Cosmos signing was given similar treatment. "He has done very little but is picked because he is a name player. He doesn't even train with us."

Added to this is the contempt Cosmos players have for a certain Canberra-based soccer writer from a daily broadsheet. "Any chance he gets he bags us, even when we win well. He hardly ever rings, in fact Inside Soccer calls more often than he does. Aren't they (the Canberra Press) supposed to be supporting us?" he asked.

Training after the game on Friday was cancelled, a note being left in the Cosmos dressing room stating that at 7pm last night there was to be a team meeting at the club's offices.

INSIDE SOCCER

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Damian deserves better

Wade slams lack of recognition for Mori

By Greg Blake

The NSL "completely blew" a rare opportunity to promote its home-grown talent when Adelaide City's Damian Mori broke the competition's all-time goalscoring record last month, according to Paul Wade.

The former Australian skipper is still disturbed that Mori's feat did not result in a national publicity campaign.

"I just think we have a history of devaluing or ignoring these sort of occasions," said the public face of soccer on the seven television network.

"Soccer's national league has been around longer than anyone else (the AFL didn't even dabble in expanding nationally until the Swans were relocated from Melbourne to Sydney in 1982,

some five years after the NSL was formed) and yet here we are, with someone breaking a significant all-time record and we did stuff all about it.

"You wonder when we'll learn, don't you."

Wade said he felt duty-bound to ensure Mori's marvellous effort was afforded some public recognition and committed himself to documenting what is surely the most understated historic achievement of season 1999/2000.

True to *Inside Soccer's* guarantee to

commemorate the event, managing editor, John Vrtaric, organised a framed and mounted copy of our front cover which featured Mori's NSL all-time goalscoring feat to be presented to the Adelaide Force champion last month.

Thanks to the co-operation of C7 soccer chief, Brian Barnard, Wade was able to present the trophy as part of the live coverage of Adelaide's clash with Sydney Olympic in round 28, only for the pre-recorded segment to miss going to air on the night.

Determined that yet another opportunity to offer Mori due recognition for his achievement wasn't lost Wade insisted that the segment be featured in a recent episode of 'Soccer Central', C7's weekly magazine-style footy program.

"Wadey" got his wish, explaining that he felt it essential that such events do not pass without recognition.

"I think it's a sad indictment that

the whole thing didn't get more publicity Australia wide," said the former Socceroo skipper and NSL 300-plus gamer.

"Particularly when you consider all the crap dished up over 'Plugger' Lockett (former Sydney Swans' AFL star, who broke that competition's goalkicking record in 1999).

"All the fuss that was made over that, it was like the whole of Australia came to a standstill.

"With the AFL generating so much public-

ity, the signing of tops and balls, the publicity photos etc., it was staggering.

"I just felt that it was another huge opportunity missed."

For his part, Mori was thrilled to accept what is still the only tangible recognition offered to him for his all-time NSL best of 144 goals, his career total after last weekend (he scored an amazing four on Friday night.)

"I'm really grateful," he said.

"The truth is that I'd probably be happy to have not got the record if it meant we'd be playing in the finals.

"I mean, you don't go out to set individual records, but it's nice to do as they come along.

"Most of the time these things probably don't mean as much until after you leave the game and you've got something to look back on.

"*Inside Soccer* is a terrific publication and I'm really pleased that they could do this for me."

As is often the case on a C7 road trip, after the evening of the presentation to Mori the round table football post mortem between Wade and several others inevitably turned to the man nicknamed 'Frogga'.

The consensus is that Mori's greatest attribute is his reliability in certain situations; that he is probably one of the league's best-ever 'money men'.

Given some decent delivery and a full head of steam up and Mori is in 'put down your glasses' territory, when you would comfortably back him to score a good 70 percent or better of his chances.

"I remember coming back from a bout of



Paul Wade grapples with Maradona in 1993. The former Socceroo captain feels Mori's feat should have been acknowledged more widely.

glandular fever in 1994/95 and had the misfortune of having to mark him in a finals game," Wade recalled.

"I was on the halfway line and thought I really had him for a time, but all that changed in about a second.

"He got a ball to feet, basically shrugged me aside like I wasn't even there and then literally burst away and scored.

"It was a bloody marvellous goal and had it not been me and my team (South Melbourne) I would have wanted to applaud as well.

"To me that goal just summed him up.

"The runs he makes, the speed, the power.

"There's no doubt in my mind that he's one of the best I've seen at this level of competition."

And whilst Wade clearly won't be remembered for his man-marking in big games, for his effort to not let Mori's big moment slip by we offer an unapologetic free plug for Wade's 'Soccer Central' show on C7, which is must-watch material for NSL-dedicated footy heads.

Also featuring Australia's premier soccer scribe and C7 regular, Michael Cockerill, 'Soccer Central' hits the screen every Thursday night on Optus Television at around 9.30pm.

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GREG BLAKE
C7 SOCCER COMMENTATOR
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Red hot and as lethal as a rolling ball of butcher's knives they might be, but don't rely on the prolific goalscoring feats of Scott Chipperfield, Stuart Young, Saso Petrovski, Esala Masi and Dino Mennillo to take the Wolves to the NSL's promised land in this extraordinary 1999/2000 season.

Last Friday night's four-game, round 30 goal bonanza was one for the history books; an eight-goal thriller at Olympic Park was breathtaking, while on the same night Adelaide were scoring four of the game's six goals against Northern Spirit and Parramatta Power were ripping Sydney United open with another four of



Stuart Young: a sensational four-goal spree at Cosmos took his tally to 16 for the season.

the best.

But the news that really set everyone buzzing on the night filtered through from Canberra, where Wollongong's relentless wrecking crew had done another demolition job, this time beating up on the home-town Cosmos to the tune of six goals.

As all great goalscoring sides do, this thoroughly engaging Wollongong side has captured the imagination of the public.

Compelling stuff, with Wollongong poised and gunning the engines on 67 team goals for the campaign and Sydney City's 1982 regular season record of 68 about to tumble.

And the Wolves will also likely trash the

combined season best of 70 team goals in all games, recorded by Adelaide Force in 1995/96 and then Sydney United a year later.

And unless NSL stats guru, Andrew Howe, can trump me on this I do believe that no NSL club has ever boasted four double-figure goalscorers in the one season, as Wollongong currently does in Young, Masi, Chipperfield and Petrovski.

While Wollongong's multi-pronged assault force continues to be the headline act on the club's seemingly inexorable march to all manner of goalscoring records, I reckon the numbers that should please coach, Nick Theodorakopoulos, more are 0, 0 and 0.

Not the national emergency telephone number - although Canberra could argue a decent case for needing resuscitation after that slaughter in the ACT last Friday night - but the three consecutive clean sheets the Wolves have produced in their last three outings.

All season long the lingering doubt about Wollongong's title claims has centred on its tardy defensive record, which at one point was ranked a lamentable 13th overall and was still the worst of all the clubs presently in the top six into last weekend's round.

To say that finals football is a different ball game smacks of a cliché, yet recent history is littered with the corpses of NSL teams which delighted everyone by breezing through the regular season riding on the back of a potent, multi-pronged, flamboyant and free-wheeling attack only to get scored when it counted most.

Sydney United were irrepressible in a 67-goal regular season onslaught in 1996/97, Adelaide City, on the back of Damian Mori's record individual tally of 31, plundered 65 in 1995/96, South Melbourne delighted in a 51-goal 1991/92 campaign and the Perth Glory team of just a season ago savaged 62 goals.

United lost the 1997 grand final, whilst the Adelaide, South Melbourne and Perth teams mentioned didn't even make it as far as the championship game.

According to South Melbourne's veteran skipper, Paul Trimboli, when the stakes become life or death in the finals, almost inevitably the cautious, organized and patient teams will win the day.

"I think that's the area Wollongong needs to address," explained Trimboli, who has captained the competition's last two championship-

winning teams and has been involved in three winning grand finals.

"I know that I played in a couple of teams here (at South Melbourne) which were just magnificent teams to be involved with, teams which played really good football and scored a lot of goals.

"But we always got found out in the finals, because the nature of the game becomes one where the focus is on stopping the other team and not giving too much away.

"Wollongong are really amazing at the moment, but they might get a shock in the finals."

The historical data underscores Trimboli's opinion, with the goals per game average of the top gun teams over the past 15 years dropping away significantly between regular season and finals matches, from 2.16 goals per game in the preliminary rounds to around 1.27 in the play-offs.

"The matches are much tighter; they become scraps," concludes Trimboli.

Encouraging then that the league's master finals strategist, Adelaide City coach, Zoran Matic, publicly validated Wollongong's defensive set-up after the comparatively subdued Wolves edged past the Zebs 1-0 at Brandon Park in round 29.

Matic appeared to be genuinely impressed, lauding Wollongong's ability to get players behind the ball.

"Their defence was well organized; there wasn't going to be an easy chance," conceded the three-time NSL championship-winning coach.

That said, the recent run of defensive shut-outs might still be slightly deceptive, with Wollongong's recent trio of scoreless opponents from the Knights, Adelaide Force and Canberra respectively ranked 12th, 9th and 14th in goalscoring going into round 30.

"Wollongong are flashy and can put away struggling teams, but I'm not sure they'll get away with it against quality opposition," confided one NSL veteran likely to come up against the Wolves in the finals recently.

"I think they'll get found out."

While outwardly the momentum of the south coast outfit is encouraging enough, the harsh reality of a 1-4-5 win/loss record against the other top six teams thus far this season - that lone victory coming at home to Carlton in January - offers little supporting evidence for Wollongong's claims as a genuine contender.

Nor does Wollongong's ugly league-worst record of having lost three games in which it led, as well as having led in six other games in which the opposition has reeled them in for drawn results.



The Chippies Express: can anyone halt Scott Chipperfield and co.?

And while the Wolves hit top six territory under Theodorakopoulos in 1997/98 - and managed to execute battle-hardened Adelaide City in the elimination round - it does not bode well that no team has ever won the national title without having at least made a play-off appearance in the preceding season.

"Experience in finals is often underestimated," says Trimboli.

Although one of Wollongong's stars of that 97/98 series, livewire Alvin Ceccoli, believes this team is a substantially improved model from the one which fell to Marconi in a 2-1 minor semi final squeaker two seasons back.

"Obviously through some of the acquisitions the club has made I think this team has much more potential," maintains Ceccoli.

"This team is more settled and growing in confidence."

A previous grand final winner at Melbourne Knights and in Carlton the team which lost the big one in 97/98, David Cervinski is convinced that his new team is ready to go for the finals.

"I've been there before but it's hard not to get excited when you see the buzz about the place," he explained.

"I've played in some good teams and this team is developing into something a bit special.

"And the enthusiasm around the place is amazing."

The sterner and probably decisive test of the current Wollongong team's coming of age, its ability to manage opponents on the scoreboard and win when it counts will come in the final three rounds of the season, when the Wolves get three teams currently ranked in the top six offensively; Parramatta, Perth and Carlton.

The argument that attacking brilliance wins at the box office but solid defence wins the silverware should not be dismissed lightly; only five times in NSL history has the top scoring team in the competition gone on to win the grand final of that particular season.

In the 15 seasons since finals footy was adopted as the way to decide the NSL title, only Marconi (1988, 1989 and 1992/93), Melbourne Knights (1994/95) and South Melbourne (1997/98) have taken the season's best attack to ultimate success.

Also telling is the fact that ten of those 15 grand final match-ups have been won by the team with the better defensive record over the course of the season.

In its present mood you'd back Wollongong to outscore any other team in the race, and if they're true to the word of Theodorakopoulos, his team will approach their finals match-ups in the manner which has served them well all season long.

"Of course we'll attack in the finals," he has declared. Obviously sensible, given the team's ravenous appetite for goals has already taken Wollongong this far.

But what we still need to establish is if the Wolves are getting it right at the other end of the paddock; that the balance and mix is good enough.

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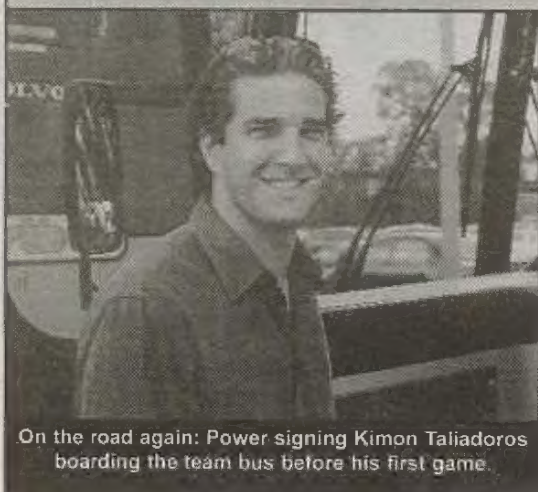
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On the road again: Power signing Kimon Taliadoros boarding the team bus before his first game.

By Aidan Ormond

New Parramatta Power signing Kimon Taliadoros loves his football and is absolutely delighted to be back playing the game he loves. He also has a passion for new media, having briefly quit the game due to injury to pursue his off-field career.

Taliadoros, 32, has been out of the game for about 18 months following a knee reconstruction while playing for Sydney Olympic.

However the erudite Taliadoros has not wasted his time. After completing his MBA he has worked with the Channel 9, PBL and Microsoft internet company, ninemsn.

"I wanted to get into new media, and with my sports background and University qualifications it all came together ... it's been a very enjoyable time."

Taliadoros left the company about a month ago to rejoin the ranks of the, increasingly professional, NSL.

"The future? That's a good question," asked the attacking midfielder. "I am currently grappling with

that very issue at the moment, which is why I'm so grateful to be playing again.

"I've really missed it in my life," he said of the camaraderie.

"As far as my off-field career, new media is very exciting and dynamic and that is probably where my, at least short-term, off-field career will be."

Yet returning to football has been tough on Taliadoros' body.

"It's been a quite a shock," he said at last week's inaugural auction night, where a variety of sporting memorabilia was auctioned off in aid of Parramatta Power.

"The rigours of full-time football in particular, with training during the day have been quite a challenge for me given I've been out of the game for some time.

"But let me say," he stressed, "it's an absolute pleasure, an absolute pleasure, to be back playing football, particularly for a club like Parramatta Power."

Taliadoros, who has also played for South, Marconi and Collingwood Warriors, trained with Northern Spirit earlier this year but failed to win a contract.

"It's an excellent squad at Parramatta with great depth. My understanding is that I will coming off the bench, perhaps later in the game, should the side need to score or require a little experience.

"I'd be more than happy to play wherever Mitch (David Mitchell) and Laurie (McKenna) decide to play me, as long as it's not central defence I'll be happy," he joked.

Taliadoros had a five-game stint in that position at Olympic just prior to his injury.

"There's a real commitment to success at the club, from what I've seen. I'm genuinely confident they will make the six.

"This team really has a lot to offer the national league if they make the finals.

"They play a good brand of soccer."

The Hahn of God

Country soccer to get helping hand

By Aidan Ormond

The Central West Soccer League, taking in NSW areas such as Orange, Bathurst, Dubbo and Lithgow, has received a boost with the announcement by the NSW Soccer Federation that Hahn Beer will sponsor the league.

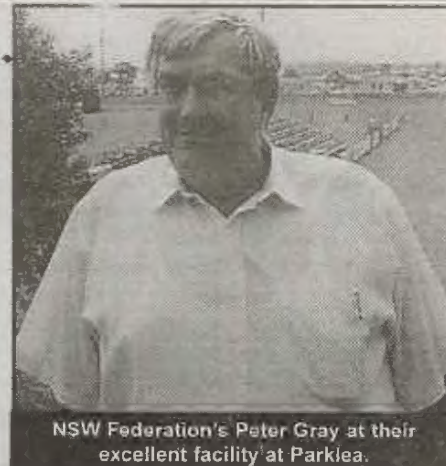
The Hahn Premium Central West Soccer League, which consists of eight teams, began in 1994, and includes first, reserve and U/18 grades.

The clubs involved are Orange Waratah, Orange Cymys and Canobolas Rangers from Orange; Bathurst '75 and Bathurst City Red Tops; East Dubbo Utd and Orana Spurs from Dubbo, together with Lithgow City Rangers.

It is expected that the sponsorship (believed to be about \$10,000) will assist clubs with their running costs, particularly with travel. "It makes it so much easier for us," said Bruce Rooke, a league representative from Bathurst.

NSW Soccer Federation President Peter Gray (pictured) said he was delighted that a company like Hahn could see the potential in soccer, and outlined the NSW Federation's plans for other country soccer regions.

"Next year in the Riverina a similar competition will be put together featuring two Griffiths teams who have not played against each other in nine years!



NSW Federation's Peter Gray at their excellent facility at Parklea.

"I'm told 5,000 fans are expected to turn up to watch this derby.

"In Wagga and Albury we are also going to run an FA-style competition.

"I don't think any company is easy to get on board for sponsorship. My trips in recent weeks to these areas has shown that Hahn is very popular so it lends itself to soccer sponsorship," added Gray.

"I am sure there are many large companies that want to be involved with soccer, we just have to learn to service them better so the others will tag along.

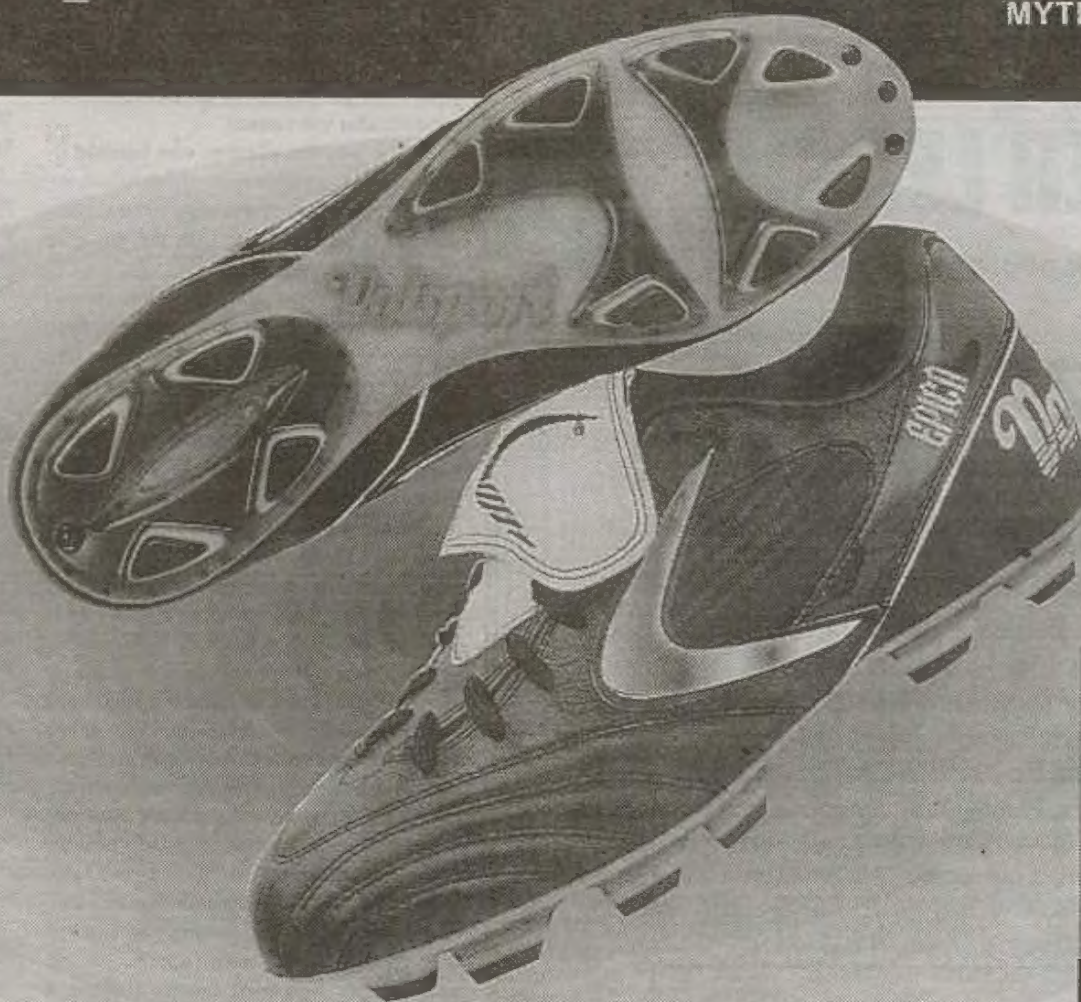
"Hahn will connect with the clubs and pubs of our soccer sides in these country areas, and obviously Hahn will be pushed as the preferred product."

This news comes on top of last week's announcement of Valsport clothing the Fed's sides.

Valsport

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The Glorious world of *Troy Halpin*

By Aidan Ormond

On the eve of the vital round 30 NSL clash between Perth Glory and Newcastle, one of the Breakers old boys who, like many Novocastrian footballers, have kicked on in their careers, was in the opposition ranks.

While Perth Glory's Troy Halpin is reveling in the high-profile, high pressure football of Perth, the Breakers games are the ones he feels are the most difficult for him.

"I definitely have a soft spot for my former home town. Of all the games it's been the one I've struggled to adjust to.

"It's not that my attitude is wrong but I have feelings that are hard to hide," he explained.

"It's wonderful that they (Newcastle) are

played the foundation when he was there and now it's coming to fruition.

"It's certainly a strong squad, they play for 90 minutes, battle hard and I think finals footy will suit them."

Halpin goes back to visit family and friends in Newcastle at the end of each season and occasionally during the league.

"Perhaps only in the Grand Final would I feel more comfortable because at least they would have already had success. I only want to play them if I really have to," the 26-year-old said candidly.

Halpin was equally candid about the rest of his career. As far as he's concerned, if he is to play overseas, now is the time.

"Two years ago I would have said I want to get overseas and make the Socceroos again," the Glory midfielder said.

"I think now," he reflected, "I just want to enjoy my football and I probably have changed my attitude a lot. I would love to play overseas but that's not my sole ambition.

"I want to challenge myself now to play at the highest level possible.

"I have a couple of things in the pipeline. If I don't go now it will be too late. I have however some people working for me in the German Bundesliga."

However the Spanish Primera is the league that really appeals to Halpin because "it's skilful and open."

Of all the leagues in Europe it is easy to see Halpin in the full-time professionalism of Spain. Ironically, Halpin's Socceroo manager, Terry Venables, also coached in Spain.

El Tel brings back fond memories.

"Venables' approach was unbelievable. I had some pre-conceived notions about how an English coach would do his job.

"He seemed to work well with individuals within a system. He could give a player instructions but also let a player express himself.

"For me, that is as good a manager as it can get.

"I was with Terry during the Superstars series and the Four Nations Cup ... maybe it was just the little things that impressed me.

"He was an attacking coach, trying to win games. He was just a good all-round team manager."

On full-time football at club level though, Halpin's thoughts may have some resonance at Parramatta Stadium, where the Power's squad have taken some time to adjust.

"I think people assume that we'd become full-time players at Glory and everything would be fine - we'd be fitter and stronger and therefore better players.

"I think it takes a good 12-18 months to make the transition from part-time to full-time. It's a big adjustment not only on your lifestyle but also on your body.

"If you're copping knocks day in day out it adds up, plus the promotional side of things which of course is big here in Perth, then it can take a toll, and perhaps a few players have struggled to make the initial adjustment," he said.

"Power are starting to play much better but yeah, they probably did struggle early ... against us here in Perth however they looked quite sharp and impressive."

Halpin's public profile, like all other Glory players, is arguably higher than any other NSL club's roster, remarkable considering Glory have been around for only four years.

Halpin sees it as good for the game.

"Coming from Newcastle I had a fair bit of media work to do (he was captain), so I was kind of used to it.

"Some players may search out the media spotlight, but I view it as being good for the game because that's the most important thing. As Bernd Stange says, it's the profile of the game that really sees the benefits.

"We (Glory) are probably as big as the Knights (NRL) are in Newcastle."

Certainly since the arrival of coach Bernd Stange the Glory has been on an upsurge on and off the field. A finals appearance in his first year coaching the side and a likely top two this year.

"Yeah, it's intense training. The pre-season is very very hard, Halpin stressed. "Bernd likes to get in there and get it done so we can get onto the ball work.

"Obviously day in day out the training is the difference between us and other clubs. Bernd tries to explain that the intensity through competition of places is like overseas."

That intensity surrounding the club reached fever pitch recently with the news that coach Stange was not to be offered a new contract after this season.

The way the situation was handled by the club alarmed Halpin.

"I think initially there were some players who were surprised the club did not offer Bernd a new contract.

"I know myself and some other players were a little concerned about the way decisions were being made.

"I think the players thought that if that could happen to a coach - the coach is probably the most important person in a club in terms of personnel - then it could happen to them. You know what I mean?

"I felt that way certainly. We were called in about 30 mins before the public was told at a press conference and that was all that was said. So really, we were left in the dark as to why the decision was made.

"In saying that I don't think it adversely affected the players perhaps the way some thought it would," he observed. "We had two or three good wins over that rocky period.

"I guess Bernd's resolve was to win the games ... I don't think the players were that affected. We just wanted to do our best for Bernd and the team.

"The level of public outpouring was quite strong ... it was surprising that fans had such feelings in Australian soccer. I'm not sure if that's happened before, I guess it shows how good the fans are over here in Perth.

"Our supporters are the best by a mile," Halpin said of the famous Glory support.



Troy Halpin playing against Spirit earlier this season.

And Glory's success has come despite the huge travel hours racked up by the squad. A Sydney or Melbourne game is an eight hour round-trip. Brisbane and Auckland in particular are the proverbial expeditions.

"The travel? At times it may be difficult, for example when daylight savings comes in and the sleeping arrangements are a problem as a result.

"I think the guys have adjusted although I certainly have got sick of airline food."

Halpin in fact has been fed the wrong meals all season. Due to an admin error he has been given low-fat meals while everyone else has had chicken and fish. "I've hated that!"

Jokingly he asked: "Is someone trying to tell me something?

"My average week is a Monday return from a Sunday flight with the afternoon off. Tuesday is usually a session of stretching with a pool session. It seems to help because it's low impact.

"Wednesday may be a day off, with two sessions on a Thursday (tactics preceded by a physical session), with a session on Friday and another one on the Saturday in the lead-up to Sunday's game."

"At this stage I do feel we have the depth to win the league. I don't think we have a lot of depth, like say Marconi, but I think we are covered," he said cautiously.

"It's going to be difficult," Halpin said on sides visiting Perth.

"I know last year with our finals run we packed in 28,000. This year they are looking at Subiaco Oval, which has 40,000. I'd say it would be hard for any opposition. Having said that, teams can lift when playing in front of such a good crowd at such a stadium.

"Bernd is very professional in the way he prepares the side but we have to give these fans success and this year with such an open field, it's as good a time as any to lift the title.

"Last year was quite difficult to adjust to playing on the WACA, what with the cricket pitch, but we couldn't complain about the results we had (victories over foundation members Marconi and Adelaide City.)

"We then went to Marconi Stadium to play Sydney United in front of a crowd of about 5,000 ... I think it may have been an anti-climax for us after playing in front of almost 30,000 in Perth.

"In ten years I can't remember such an open league. Any one of the top six have shown they are capable of pinching it with sides like Spirit, South and Force outside the six.

"The players are more evenly spread this season. With Spirit and Glory coming into the league some of the top players are now longer at clubs that previously dominated.

"Perth is lovely. I've been here for two years and I do often say that Newcastle is a smaller version of Perth, with the beaches and lifestyle and sports mad nature.

Outside of football Halpin enjoys spending time playing other sports. He also likes being away from the game "to head south and lie on a beach ... I'm a fairly quiet person."

Halpin has done some business and sport management courses in Newcastle but also has his eye on coaching when the career finally winds down.

Who knows, one day he may coach his beloved Newcastle Breakers?



Troy Halpin in his Newcastle days. "It's wonderful Newcastle are in the six," says Halpin.

in the six ... for years the fans there have seen the potential and it was really just a matter of finding someone to guide the players.

"That's what Lee Sterrey has done," Halpin observed of the man who is held in as high a regard as Bernd Stange is in Perth.

"Lee seems to work well with the players, and remember it's still a young squad with not a huge budget. I think 'Kossie' (John Kosmina)

SUPER LEAGUE

Official clothing supplier to the NSW Soccer Federation



ANZAC DAY TRIPLE HEADER Parramatta Stadium

Tuesday 25 April

Parramatta Eagles v Penrith Panthers

Game 3.30pm (1st grade Only)

Blacktown City Demons v Leichhardt Tigers

Game 5.30pm (1st grade Only)

NSL - Parramatta Power v Wollongong Wolves

Game KO 7.30pm

Fairfield Bulls v Macarthur Rams - Nineveh Field

Games 3.00pm (1st grade) - 1.00pm (21s)

Eastern Suburbs v Bonnyrigg W. E. - St George Stadium

Games 3.00pm (1st grade) - 1.00pm (21s)

Catch all the latest news on football in NSW in *Super Soccer OUT 20 April!*

www.soccernsw.com.au

Triple treat at Parra Stadium

Next Tuesday (Anzac Day April 25) will see an absolute feast of Super League and NSL action in Sydney. A triple header at Parramatta Stadium will feature the battle of the west between Parra Eagles and Penrith Panthers (3.30pm), plus the much-anticipated Blacktown City and Leichhardt Tigers (5.30pm). The final game of the triple-treat is Parramatta Power against the high-scoring league leaders Wollongong Wolves at 7.30pm, which looms as a wonderful way to finish the day.

Interestingly, all four Super League sides have played NSL before. What is even more exciting is the fact that lethal strikers Mark Haggard (Blacktown) and Tigers' Steve Karavatakis will be on the same park when these two heavyweights of the league clash.

These two men have taken the scorers' charts by storm this season.

And the Parramatta versus Penrith western derbies have plenty of feeling.

So, if you've never seen a Super League game, this is the perfect opportunity. Three wonderful games on a special day for Australia: Anzac Day at Parramatta Stadium.

Perth Glory has formally approached local club Stirling Lions with an offer to purchase outright the club's ground, Macedonia Park, reports Brett Klucznik. Glory offered Lions \$2.3 million for the venue which they were planning to re-develop and use as their long-term training base.

But at a meeting of Lions members and supporters, the offer was knocked back. Glory have recently been forced to vacate their summer training ground of Leederville Oval due to its use by W.A. Australian Rules club East Perth.

Matildas Inc.?

National team films TV commercial for Japan

By Aidan Ormond

Soccer Australia could take a leaf out of the AWSA's book. After the stunning PR and financial success of the Matildas calendar (a worldwide seller), the national team has just completed shooting a lucrative Japanese TV commercial.

Shot on a deserted beach in WA, the ad cost over \$300,000. The company, Apagard toothpaste, has usually selected entertainment stars to endorse its products in the past.

The amount the Matildas were paid is believed to be a six-figure sum. AWSA CEO Warren Fisher agrees that the brand name of the Matildas is becoming one of the strongest on the sports market.

"It was the first time in our short history that a corporate entity has paid us to promote their product. It was quite a substantial fee as well and if it opens up some more doors then perhaps we have created a niche for ourselves."

"The company," explained Fisher, "had already come up with the slogan 'wellness that springs from within, woman unfazed by man'. Their pitch is to be independent and confident. They saw that the Matildas, through the calendar, have stepped across the line and be acclaimed for it, and they were trying to tap into that ethos."

It is believed the commercial features 11 Matildas playing soccer and relaxing on an idyllic beach (Lancelin, WA) in a style not too dissimilar to some beachball Coke and Brazil Nike ads.

Meanwhile, Matildas coach Chris Tanzey is desperate for games (the March series with Nigeria was cancelled), so the June Pacific Cup represents a golden opportunity. Star striker Julie Murray is doubtful and Alison Forman will again captain the side (she is likely to also skipper the Matildas at the Olympics.)

Tanzey said he hoped that some of the "concentration lapses" that cost his side in the January Australia Cup would be eradicated. "Overall we defended well as a unit, but players' concentration let us down at vital times in that Cup."

It has been confirmed that the USA will bring its star players such as Mia Hamm and Brandi Chastain. "Our strategy is to maximize attendances," said Warren Fisher of the decision to play games in Sydney, Campbelltown and Newcastle. "And we have an iron-clad guarantee from Soccer Australia that the Olyroos and the Socceroos

won't be playing a week either side of the Pacific Cup in Sydney." Newcastle fans should turn up in droves to see the Matildas, China and the full-strength USA - the sides expected to be in the Pacific Cup finals.

PACIFIC CUP SCHEDULE

ROUND ONE

Wednesday 31 May 2000, Bruce Stadium Canberra (Olympic Football venue)

4.30 pm USA v Japan, 7.00 pm Australia v Scotland

Campbelltown Sports Stadium Sydney

4.30 pm North Korea v Canada, 7.00 pm China v New Zealand

ROUND TWO

Friday 2 June 2000, AIS Athletics Arena Canberra

4.30 pm Canada v New Zealand, 7.00 pm North Korea v China

Sydney Football Stadium Sydney (Olympic Football venue)

5.30 pm Japan v Scotland, 8.00 pm Australia v USA

ROUND THREE

Sunday 4 June 2000, AIS Athletics Arena Canberra

12.30 pm China v Canada, 3.00 pm North Korea v New

Zealand

Campbelltown Sports Stadium Sydney

12.30 pm USA v Scotland, 3.00 pm Australia v Japan

SEMI FINALS

Wednesday 7 June, Hunter Athletics Centre Newcastle

2.00 pm 4th Pool A v 3rd Pool B

4.30 pm 3rd Pool A v 4th Pool B

Thursday 8 June 2000, Breakers Stadium Newcastle

5.00 pm 2nd Pool A v 1st Pool B

7.30 pm 1st Pool A v 2nd Pool B

FINALS

Saturday 10 June 2000, Hunter Athletics Centre Newcastle

12.30 pm 7 v 8

3.00 pm 5 v 6

Sunday 11 June 2000, Breakers Stadium Newcastle

12.30 pm 3 v 4

3.00 pm Pacific Cup Final

EXPERIENCE

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THIS SATURDAY AT

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UTS SYDNEY OLYMPIC VERSUS PARRAMATTA POWER

Belmore Sports Ground will rock'n'roll this Saturday as Olympic host Parramatta. We'll see who the power of Sydney soccer really is! There'll be action galore - don't miss a minute of it!

- Join us on the Olympic Family Hill ...admission still **only \$5 per adult!**
 - Come and meet the Easter Bunny! Free eggs for all the kids!
 - Our Golden Goal Competition is now worth a staggering **\$21,000!** It could be you!
 - **FREE** Face Painting for the kids
- It's the best value sporting deal in town!

SATURDAY APRIL 22nd - GATES OPEN AT 3PM

1st Game: Sydney Olympic Youth Team Vs Parramatta Youth Kick off 4.00pm

Main Game: UTS Sydney Olympic Vs Parramatta Power Kick Off 6.30pm

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE GROUND

Family Hill: Adults \$5

Grandstand Side: Adults \$15, Concession \$10, Children \$5.

Children under 13 years admitted FREE (all areas)



AUSSIES on the world stage

A round-up of how our Aussies players fared abroad this last week ...

Murphy sent-off, Agostino and Milicic score doubles

Two midweek games gave lower-profile Aussies abroad, Paul Agostino and Ante Milicic, their days in the sun.

After having scored the equalising goal in the last minute as a substitute in 1860 Munchen's previous game, Agostino started the game against Duisburg and collected a brace of goals, in the 29th and 81st minute, in a 4-1 home win for Munchen.

Reluctant Soccerroo Ned Zelic, who has been part of a prominent football magazine's 'Team of the Week' on three occasions this season, played in his normal sweeper position for the duration of the game.

In the weekend game both Agostino and Zelic experienced the cross town derby game against Bayern Munich as part of the starting

line-up. They enjoyed the conclusion of the game even more as their team had a fabulous 1-2 away win against Bayern who were equal leaders before the weekend.

Both Aussies played the full game for 1860 who now find themselves in fourth position with only four games to go.

The forgotten Milicic had an even more fruitful week with two goals mid-week and one on the weekend. Having scored two goals when making his debut as a substitute early in the season Milicic was looking forward to a successful season with Rijeka in the Croatian First Division. But this was not to be the case as circumstances deprived him of a regular berth in the coastal team.

But given his chance in the mid-week home game against Zagreb he took it with both hands to score two goals in five minutes with the first one arriving in the 70th minute. The former Sydney United goalscorer equalised with his second goal after having an earlier one disallowed for an infringement but it was to no avail as the visitors scored a late winner.

There was better luck for Rijeka on the weekend when they thrashed Varteks 4-0 to hang on to fourth spot on the table which guarantees a place in Europe for next season. Milicic had an eventful game scoring again in the 26th minute, but he also received a yellow.

Milicic was adjudged to be one of the better players in both games receiving a rating of seven out of ten.

Another ex Sydney United player, Zeljko Kalac, was forgiven for his 'sin' of playing for Australia in the recent game against the Czech Republic but probably wished his coach had waited another week to bring him back in the starting line-up.

Kalac's Roda JC went down 3-4 to Willem II after leading 3-1 at one stage.

In other continental Europe news Paul Okon was on the bench on the weekend as Fiorentina played a 3-3 home draw with Lazio.

In Germany the injured pair of Joe Simunic and Frank Juric is yet to make their return as their teams, Hertha Berlin and Bayer Leverkusen respectively, chase places in Europe for next season.

In the English Premier League Mark Bosnich was replaced at half time after he appeared to injure himself but it made no difference to Manchester United as they steam-rolled an in-form Sunderland team 4-0 to virtually guarantee themselves another title.

In other games, Coventry beat Middlesbrough 2-1 at home with Mark Schwarzer playing a full game for the visitors while John Aloisi is unlikely to return to the visitor's squad before the season end. The Aussie



Paul Agostino (scoring against Brazil last year). He bagged two for his German club.

'keeper was kept very busy in the Middlesbrough goal but played a great game denying the Coventry forwards on a number of occasions and could not do much about either of the goals, one of which was credited as an own goal after Schwarzer parried a shot but the rebound was helped into the goal by the club skipper, Paul Ince.

In last week's Monday game the two Aussie 'keepers played against each other as United recorded a 3-4 away victory over Middlesbrough. Both Aussies played well and could not be blamed for any of the goals.

In Watford's 2-0 away loss to Southampton Richard Johnson played a full game but could do little to help his demoralised team as they ponder their drop to the first division for next season.

In Sunday's game Harry Kewell's Leeds United hosted an in-form Arsenal team, who had won their previous six games, and continued their miserable ending to the season with a 0-4 thumping. Kewell played the full game and created an early chance when his sublime skill took him on a 50-yard run and clear of three challenges.

When finally faced with David Seaman, Kewell opted for the pull back for Alan Smith, who woefully spooned his shot over the bar from seven yards.

In the Nationwide Division One games Stan Lazaridis' Birmingham City missed their chance to secure sixth, and last playoff, position when they went down 0-1 at home to Nottingham Forest. Lazaridis was replaced at the start of the second half but City remained five points in front of the seventh placed Wolverhampton who also lost on the weekend.

Kevin Muscat played the full game as the Wolves lost 1-0 away to Norwich and missed the opportunity to close the gap on Birmingham.

Crewe Alexandra's home 2-1 win over QPR kept them above the relegation zone with Aussie Jason Kearton, in his 100th consecutive game, played a vital role in the three points staying in Crewe. For QPR Aussie George Kulscar remained on the bench for the entire game.

Shaun Murphy's Sheffield United, after having been one of the form teams mid-season, has been on a slide for the last few weeks and suffered a 4-0 thrashing away to Fulham. Murphy was sent off in the 49th minute with his team only 1-0 down at the time.

Manchester City, sitting in second spot on the ladder, visited Grimsby, who had not scored in six games, but could only manage a 1-1 draw. Danny Tiatto, a regular starter in

the second half of the season, played the full game and was involved in the game's most controversial incident seven minutes from time.

A Grimsby attacker was in the clear but was hauled down from behind by Tiatto - it was an apparent red card offence but the referee angered the home crowd by waving play on.

City, with four games remaining, are sitting in second spot, one point in front of third placed Ipswich and three points in front of fourth placed Barnsley.

With the second spot team automatically promoted to the Premier League, Tiatto could soon join the handful of Aussies plying their trade in one of the world's premier football competitions.

Swindon Town, doomed to the Second Division, is not going down without a fight as they beat Tranmere 3-1 at home with Aussie Frank Talia keeping goals for the home team.

Struggling Walsall had a 2-2 home draw with Crystal Palace for whom Craig Foster was replaced in the 80th minute but who had a hand in the first Palace goal which was scored from his corner clearance.

In the 4-4 draw between West Brom and Bolton none of the Aussies in the two teams, Jason Van Blerk, Andrew McDermott and Con Boutsianis, participated in the game.

In the Nationwide Second Division Millwall put their hand up for promotion with a 1-3 away win over Brentford to jump to equal second place after both Wigan and Bristol Rovers were beaten on the weekend.

Millwall are joint second with both of those teams but only two points above the fifth placed Burnley in the fight for the automatic promotion second spot.

Tim Cahill played a full game while Lucas Neil was one of the unused substitutes, having returned last week from the injury he suffered whilst playing for the Olyroos.

Wigan lost 2-1 away to Gillingham, for whom Steve 'Monty' Mautone was in goals - the home team is also still in contention for promotion, sitting in sixth spot, six points behind the equal second teams but with a game in hand.

In the Scottish Premier League, Celtic's miserable end to the season continued as they could only manage a 2-2 home draw with Dundee. Mark Viduka played the full game but was scoreless, although he did create the first goal when his cross from the by-line was headed into the goal.

In Rangers' 0-2 away win over Dundee United neither of the injured Aussies, Tony Vidmar and Craig Moore, were featured as they have not yet recovered, as was the case in their team's 1-2 mid-week win over Hearts.



Shaun Murphy: sent-off.

Garcia waits and hopes

By Scott O'Donnell in Singapore

Emie Tapai's Home United continued their move up the table with a convincing 3-0 victory over the hapless Clementi Khalsa. Tapai, who has just returned from a hamstring strain, played well in what seemed like a stroll in the park for Home.

The score could have easily been 6-0 with Home missing a number of good opportunities including a penalty. Once again the poor state of the field meant the quality of football played left a lot to be desired.

Geylang United suffered their second successive defeat at the hands of Gombak, losing 2-1 at home. Aussie Alan Vest will be very disappointed with his charges as they put up a lacklustre performance.

Geylang, who started the season on fire, were without a couple of first team regulars but showed no great urgency or desire and did not deserve anything out of the game.

Don't be surprised if Vest makes a num-

ber of changes for their next fixture.

Sembawang Rangers got their first win of the season with a 1-0 victory over Darren Stewart's Balestier Central side. Sembawang worked hard for their win, and Aussie Mirko Juric walked away with the Man of the Match award for his commanding performance at the heart of the Sembawang defence.

Marine Castle scored their second win of the season with a 4-1 thrashing of Woodlands Wellington.

Marine Castle with the help of Australian's Michael Garcia and Anthony Carbone, completely dominated the game and thoroughly deserved their victory.

Garcia, who still hopes to make the Olyroo squad for the Sydney Olympics, scored his second goal of the season, and the win moves Marine Castle up to seventh position on the table.

In other results, Tanjong Pagar were held to a scoreless draw at home by Tampines Rovers, while Jurong shocked the previously undefeated SAFFC 2-1.

Card Update

PLAYERS:	Y	R	Tot
1 Jamie Harwell	10	0	10
2 Che Bunce	8	2	10
3 Harry James	8	1	9
4 Vince Savoca	8	1	9
5 Troy Halpin	8	2	8
6 Jacob Burns	7	1	8
7 Lee Jones	7	1	8
8 Goran Lozanovski	7	1	8
9 Nick Meredith	7	1	8
10 Aurelio Vidmar	7	1	8
11 Jason Vukadin	7	1	8
12 Manny Gotis	7	1	8
13 Danny Burt	8	0	8
14 Stuart McLaren	8	0	8
15 Gabriel Mendez	8	0	8
16 Andy Vargas	8	0	8
17 Dean Fak	8	0	8
18 Walter Ardane	5	2	7
19 Robert Liparoti	6	1	7
20 Dino Mennillo	6	1	7
21 Mark Silic	6	1	7
22 Chris Jackson	7	0	7
23 Darren McDonald	7	0	7
24 Claudio Pelosi	7	0	7

CLUBS:	Y	R	Tot
1 StM	68	6	74
2 Mar	65	6	71
3 Canb	63	7	70
4 SOly	64	5	69
5 Kngz	60	7	67
6 PPwr	59	6	65
7 SydU	58	5	63
8 MKnl	55	7	62
9 WWol	57	4	61
10 PGry	49	6	55
11 AdIC	53	3	56
12 Gpsl	53	3	56
13 BStr	53	2	55
14 NSpr	41	4	45
15 Newc	37	2	39
16 Car	34	4	38
TOTAL	871	77	948

	Home	Away	Total
Yellows	391	480	871
Reds	28	49	77
Total	419	529	948

REFEREES:	G	Y	R	Aver
1 Matthew Broeze	28	111	14	4.5
2 Simon Micallef	27	97	6	3.8
3 Con Diomis	25	114	8	4.9
4 Gerry Connolly	25	55	7	2.5
5 Brett Hugo	24	95	10	4.4
6 Eddie Lennie	24	110	4	4.8
7 Mark Shield	24	103	9	4.7
8 Jeremy Blaney	17	37	3	2.4
9 David Dwight	12	43	3	3.8
10 Perry Muir	10	15	1	1.6
11 Derek Rugg	7	23	6	4.1
12 Brian Precious	6	29	3	5.3
13 Wayne Dade	6	33	2	5.8
14 Craig Zetter	3	6	1	2.3

GST and Soccer: you've got questions?

By Aidan Ormond

Following on from an Inside Soccer story on the effects of a GST on soccer it has been announced that the Confederation of Australian Sport and the Australian Sports Commission will provide free GST education seminars nationwide for all sports.

Most seminars will commence in early May and will provide information on the implementation of the new tax system and complementary reference material.

Each seminar is limited to 65 participants and will take place in rural, regional and metropolitan areas.

Participants can register online at www.sportforall.com.au, free call 1800 446 560 or email gst@sportforall.com.au

Our recent story on the GST and soccer concerned registration fees for junior referees for this year's winter season which included a GST component.

This resulted in junior referees willing to officiate at primary school age level being caught up in the GST net.

"Mr Howard and Mr Costello should explain why their Goods and Services Tax treats a 12-year-old refereeing an under-7 soccer game as a taxable economic service," said Shadow Minister for Sport, Senator Kate Lundy at the time.

Inside Soccer encourages as many clubs and organisations to register and find answers to any concerns they may have.

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NSL TOP SCORERS:

MICHAEL CURCIJA	18
(South Melbourne)	
DAMIAN MORI	18
(Adelaide city Force)	
PABLO CARDOZO(SO)	17
JOHN BUONAVOGLIA(NB)	16
STUART YOUNG (WC)	16
CON BOUTSIANIS (PG)	13
ALISTAIR EDWARDS(PG)	13
ALEX MOREIRA (C)	13

CROWD COMPARISON:

Cumulative to Round 29

99/00: 1,204,259

98/99: 1,180,745

NSL match reports and analysis follows on the next eight pages. The quotes of the week is on page 19.



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	(OVERALL)							(HOME)							(AWAY)						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	GD	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L
WOLLONGONG WOLVES	30	16	8	6	67	38	56	29	10	1	4	31	19	6	7	2	36	19			
Perth Glory	30	16	7	7	55	39	55	16	10	3	2	34	18	6	4	5	21	21			
Marconi Stallions	30	15	6	9	47	39	51	8	9	2	4	25	18	6	4	5	22	21			
Newcastle Breakers	29	14	8	7	43	36	50	7	8	4	2	27	18	6	4	5	18	18			
Sydney Olympic	30	14	7	9	51	36	49	15	7	5	2	31	15	7	2	7	20	21			
Carlton	30	14	6	10	49	38	48	11	7	4	4	25	18	7	2	6	24	20			
Adelaide Force	30	12	8	10	45	33	44	12	9	3	3	32	16	3	5	7	13	17			
Brisbane Strikers	30	11	9	10	39	35	42	4	6	6	3	27	17	5	3	7	12	18			
Parramatta Power	28	12	5	11	47	37	41	10	8	4	3	28	15	4	1	8	19	22			
Football Kingz	29	12	5	12	48	53	41	-5	7	3	4	26	22	5	2	8	22	31			
South Melbourne	30	11	7	12	48	48	40	0	7	4	4	26	16	4	3	8	22	32			
Melbourne Knights	30	11	6	13	34	50	39	-16	7	2	6	18	18	4	4	7	16	32			
Northern Spirit	30	11	3	16	40	52	38	-12	8	2	5	21	19	3	1	11	19	33			
Gippsland Falcons	30	6	8	16	18	40	26	-22	3	4	8	10	17	3	4	8	8	23			
Canberra Cosmos	30	6	8	16	37	61	26	-24	4	3	8	17	25	2	5	8	20	36			
Sydney United	30	4	5	21	17	50	17	-33	4	3	9	14	22	0	2	12	3	28			

Produced with the assistance of McRopodConceptSportsSystems - www.planet.net.au/~mcropod.

Power in peak form for crunch Kingz game

PARRAMATTA POWER 4

Angelucci 4, Ardone 26, 43 Elrich 87.

SYDNEY UNITED 0

Friday night at Parramatta Stadium, Sydney. Crowd: 3,361.



MATCH STATS:



PARRAMATTA POWER: A Crews, M Blagojevic, R Plesa (C), M Byrnes, S Eagleton, J Vrkic, S Berry, W Ardone (P Bennett 68), M Sterjovski (J Griffiths 64), A Elrich, J Angelucci (K Taliadoros 74).



SYDNEY UNITED: B Hughes, E Bosnar, T Maric (G Saric 39), S Bozinovski (Z Usljebrka 64), T Palapanis, A Genc (C), K Rastall, A Moric, T Pondejnak, N Bosevski (A Rakic 64).

Yellows:

Parramatta: Jon Angelucci 10

Best Players:

3 AHMAD ELRICH (POWER)
2 Walter Ardone (Power)
1 Joe Vrkic (Power)

Referee: Brett Hugo



Ahmad Elrich: last week he was training with the Young Socceroos, this week he was man of the match for Power.

By Paul Goodwin

Parramatta Power exacted full revenge for a loss three weeks earlier against Sydney United when they comprehensively beat their local rivals 4-0 at Parramatta Stadium on Friday night.

Power began purposefully and weathered an early foray by United - which saw Nick Bosevski fire over from a tight angle in the opening minute - to go on and take an early lead themselves.

Richard Plesa worked his way forward and fed Mile Sterjovski on the left of the area with a lofted pass. Sterjovski had little room and a tight angle, but attempted a shot from close range near the left post.

United keeper Brett Hughes could do no more than parry the effort and the ball spilled to the ground where it was forced

wide to the far post. Jon Angelucci was then able to drill the ball into the unguarded net, tucking the ball just inside the right hand post for a fourth minute lead by the home side.

After that goal one sensed that this would be Power's night and the work on the wings by Walter Ardone on the left and Ahmad Elrich on the right was instrumental in seeing that happen.

Ardone whipped over a free kick from deep on the left touchline in the 19th minute which flew across the goal and evaded a touch from any Parramatta strikers, 18 year old defender Mark Byrnes going closest to getting a head on the ball at the far post.

Seven minutes later a near identical cross from another free kick by Ardone also eluded everyone as it angled across the goalmouth, but this time it found its way into the top right corner of the net, barely skimming defenders' heads as it reached its target.

Sydney United knew they had to act quickly if they were to get anything from this game and were still playing attractive football in a contest which was played in an excellent spirit throughout.

Aytec Genc was holding sway in mid-field and his creative moves could have led to goals for the visitors, but poor finishing was against the Pumas this time.

Newcomer Ante Deur had a shot pushed away at close range in the 29th after a corner and when Genc crossed from the byline in the 31st Nick Bosevski knew he should have done better with an attempted header at the far post where he failed to connect completely.

When Eddy Bosnar lost possession, 40 yards out and two minutes before the break, Parramatta was able to go three goals up.

Angelucci fed the skilful Elrich on the right and the clever player from the Power jinked his way past defenders and delivered a delightful cross for Ardone to drive the ball into the net in the centre with the easiest of finishes.

After the interval United got going again and it was a fairly even contest for much of the second half.

Milan Blagojevic had a fierce drive which Hughes got down well to save and smother in the 48th while Andrew Crews, in his first game back after a long lay off, held a long range effort by Bosevski, making one of his few real saves of the night.

Sterjovski almost made it four in the 64th when accepting a through pass from Elrich, but lifted the ball just over the bar.

Three minutes later Elrich also supplied an early ball for Angelucci from the right, which the earlier scorer volleyed over the bar by an inch or so.

Big defender Joe Vrkic nodded the ball over at the far post from a corner on the left and it was not until the 87th that the inevitable fourth goal came.

A ball played down the line on the left by substitute Joel Griffiths for debutant and fellow substitute Kimon Taliadoros saw the one time Marconi and Sydney Olympic player enjoy an unhindered passage into the penalty area.



Walter Ardone: the former Socceroo was buzzing for Power on Friday night as they exacted revenge on Sydney United.

Taliadoros then provided a perfect low cross to the far post where Elrich, who has made a sustained run from deep, tapped the ball into the net for a thoroughly deserved goal.

Steve Berry almost made it five in stoppage time but struck the right post when facing only the keeper, who was able to claim the ball before it could be reached and driven into the net.

United coach Ivan Petkovic explained after the game that Parramatta was much too strong and his side had made far too many mistakes, the same ones they keep making every week, he said.

"We don't have enough quality players," he continued.

David Mitchell was concerned about the outcome even after the first two goals had gone in, but once the visitors had missed their opportunities midway through the first half he was much happier with the way the game was going.

"We managed to scramble the ball away a couple of times when they looked like pulling one back and after that things went our way."

"I was very pleased with Joe Vrkic tonight ... he has come on tremendously in recent weeks. Also Ahmad (Elrich) and Mark (Byrnes) were very good once again. I didn't have Jacob Burns, but had to play Mark Byrnes when he was avail-

able; he has to play, and we also have Stephen Laybutt available for next week and he will be a big asset when he is back in the side."

The win kept alive Power's top six



These two Power fans were ecstatic after the 4-0 home win for Parra.

chances ahead of tomorrow's game (Wednesday) against the Kingz in Auckland.

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Mori's four-goal show

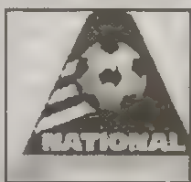
ADELAIDE CITY FORCE 4

Mori 38, 44, 70, 90.

NORTHERN SPIRIT 2

Griffiths 32, S Cranney 90.

Friday night at Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide. Crowd 4,920.



MATCH STATS



ADELAIDE CITY FORCE: Cagalj, Lagati (Cartwright 65), Tobin, Mori, Veart, Sabljak, Vidmar, Kemp (Brain 81), Costanzo, Hassell (Kim 84), Pelosi.



NORTHERN SPIRIT: Henderson, Bingley, Langdon, Slater, Berti (Crook 58), Moss, Bilokapic (Lyons 72), Cunico, R. Griffiths (A. Griffiths 89), T. Cranney, S. Cranney.

Yellows:

Force: Lagati 63

Spirit: Crook 60

BEST PLAYER:

3. MORI (CITY)

2. Costanzo (City)

1. Bilokapic (Spirit)

Referee: Jeremy Blaney



Angelo Costanzo: yet another masterly display for the Ivanovic of the future.

Henderson couldn't hold the slippery ball but City had no one following through to finish.

Half a minute later Sabljak tested Henderson again with a cracking low drive. This time the Spirit keeper made a superb save.

Mori then threatened to race into the area for a free shot, but Bilokapic sped across to clear with a brilliant sliding tackle. City piled on more pressure. Claudio Pelosi looked certain to score but the Spirit defence cleared at the last second. Sabljak had another chance, but finished poorly.

The pattern of play suggested this would be a game where City wasted too many chances and would pay the price. Matthew Bingley and Bilokapic took it in turns to cut out Mori and Pelosi who were a constant danger in the box, being fed inch-perfect passes from Brad Hassell, Matthew Kemp and Carl Veart.

Pelosi eluded his marker in the 20th minute and shot from close range but into the side netting! Spirit coach Graham Arnold now had all three subs warming up, sending a clear message to his team to pick up their game.

City replied with another blistering attack on goal. Hassell whipping in a cross from the right for Pelosi, who missed the connection by a whisker.

Spirit finally got the message. Young Ryan Griffiths ran onto a long ball in the penalty area and shot with his first touch under pressure from Alex Tobin. City keeper Adrian Cagalj made the catch look easy, and sent City back into attack.

First Vidmar set up Mori for a header which shaved the outside of the left hand post, then Hassell again put the ball through for Pelosi who turned Bilokapic inside out but skied his shot over the bar.

Then, against the run of play, 17 year old Griffiths found himself free to angle a header into the right hand side of the goal, from a deep cross from Berti on the right: 1-0 Spirit. Silence. This wasn't in the script.

Vidmar, determined to get City back into the game, dodged through the Spirit defence on the left and lobbed the ball over for Pelosi on the right to shoot. His shot ricocheted to Sabljak on the edge of the box, but the luckless youngster blasted well wide.

City finally got their reward for persistent attacking, even if it was a messy goal. Sabljak sent in a corner kick from the right. Pelosi headed down, there was a scrum of players in the six yard box and somehow Mori got his boot to the ball - City leveled after 38 minutes.

The Hindmarsh morgue turned into a dance club, fans jumping up and down and screaming. City was still alive. The atmosphere changed, on and off the pitch. The rain had gone. Mori was running hot.

Robbie Slater tried to dampen things down, booming in a long shot just high and wide, followed by a blinding run through Tobin and Sabljak to set up Matthew Langdon for a shot, only to see the ball go wide again.

Then came the most amazing goal scored at Hindmarsh this season. In an awesome display of individual speed and skill, Mori gained possession, slipped, recovered, darted and weaved down the right, then cut into the centre and let fly with his lethal left foot. What a goal! 2-1 City.

Never a team to lie down, Spirit replied immediately. Langdon curled in a free kick from 20 metres for Berti, but the grossly unfit-looking ex-star headed just over the bar.

The second half saw City again on top. How things have changed since the earlier part of the season. It was now City who looked like they could run all night, while Spirit began to fade. Even Tobin had a chance to score, but popped his shot over the bar.

Troy Cranney sent in an opportunistic long shot, but Cagalj saved easily.

Again the entire Spirit bench started warming up, as Vidmar and Pelosi tore the Spirit defence to shreds but failed to find the back of the net.

Inside Soccer's Ian Crook came on for Berti and promptly earned a caution for cynically tripping Mori on the edge of the area as he sped in on another solo goal scoring mission.

Langdon tried to imitate Mori and was the victim of a crude Lagati tackle, which earned City's new boy a caution and consequent substitution. Micheal Cartwright came on, taking up his accustomed position to the cheers of the crowd.

Five minutes later they were cheer-



Spirit's best, big 'Billy' Bilokapic.

ing Mori's hat trick. Kemp knocked the ball long for Pelosi who stroked it into Mori's path. Mori struck it perfectly past Henderson from 6 yards: 3-1 City. What a game!

In a strange move, Arnold brought on Shane Lyons for Bilokapic. The game hit a dead patch for about ten minutes.

In another unusual move, Zoran Matic brought on all his subs. This seemed to liven things up again. Young Louis Brain combined with Mori to terrorise Spirit with a series of shots, resulting in three Spirit players lying injured on the pitch!

Arnold then brought on Adam Griffiths for brother Ryan, but it was City sub Brain who set up Mori with a cross from the right to make it 4-1 one minute into time added on.

City seemed to stop dead, expecting the final whistle and Spirit took advantage to score a consolation goal two minutes later, Slater heading the ball to Sean Cranney on the left for a classic volley into the net: 4-2.

This stirred City into a final attack. Pelosi put the ball on a plate for Mori in the penalty area, but the star of the night mis-kicked the gift, missing out on a five-goal haul.



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Yet another Melbourne football classic

CARLTON 3

Thompson 44, 54, Colosimo 47.

SOUTH MELBOURNE 5

Coveny 12, Curcija 51, 71, De Amicis 79, Anastasiadis 89.

Friday night at Olympic, Melbourne. Crowd 4,373.



MATCH STATS:



CARLTON:

Anastasiadis; Horvat, Douglas, McPherson, Atkinson, Slater, Colosimo (Moreira 75), Lapsansky (Terminello 65), Thompson, Packer (Vasilevski 87), Markovski.



SOUTH

MELBOURNE: Jones; Iosifidis, Liparoti, Blatsis, De Amicis, Panopoulos, Clarkson (Magnacca 55), Lozanovski, Trimboli

(Tsekinis 55), Coveny (Anastasiadis 67), Curcija.

Yellows:

South: De Amicis (62)

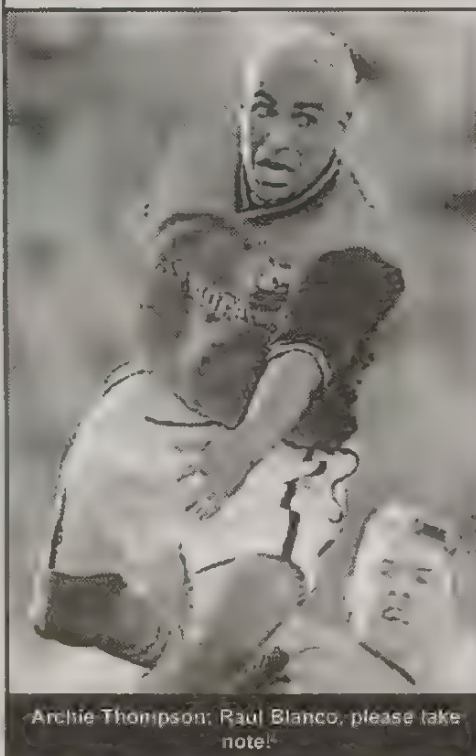
Best Players:

3. THOMPSON (CARLTON)

2. Colosimo (Carlton)

1. Curcija (South)

Referee: Gerry Connolly



Archie Thompson: Raul Blanco, please take note!

But Colosimo was the man the fans had eyes for, and most were surprised to find him playing the right flanking role, keeping out of the frenetic midfield action and instead supplying a delicious array of crosses. The 'home Blues' could have gone ahead via that method after just four minutes, but both Archie Thompson and Andrew Packer just failed to connect with Souths' 'keeper Chris Jones a virtual spectator.

A fierce Lubo Lapsansky shot and a four man combination ending with Packer shooting just wide compounded the 'away Blues' concerns, but when Curcija blasted wide after David McPherson had slipped in the penalty area, it became obvious this game wasn't going to be one-way traffic.

Indeed South took the lead in the thirteenth minute with a goal that contained just a touch of luck. A fine Goran Lozanovski cross found Steve Panopoulos, but his mis-hit shot deceived Dean Anastasiadis who could only parry the ball to the feet of Vaughan Coveny who tapped in from two metres.

With the early goal out of the way, both sides increased the tempo with Blatsis and Liparoti both requiring treatment while Lapsansky received his share of rough stuff courtesy of the tried and trusted method of rotating the perpetrator. Yet he remained centre of creativity in midfield, winning umpteen free kicks with a combination of guile and gumption and barely missing the presence of regular midfield partner and skipper Andrew Marth due to suspension.

Remarkably in a game that finished 5-3, one of the goalkeepers, Souths' Chris Jones was a standout performer. He saved well on numerous occasions but his double-save from close range on the half-hour mark from Markovski (diving low to his left) and Packer (with his legs while sprawled on the ground) was a particularly inspiring act.

The home side got a thoroughly deserved equaliser just before the interval however, with Colosimo supplying another fine cross which was flicked on to McPherson at the back post. His recent

run of goalscoring form enticed him to try his luck with a shot on the turn which Jones could only parry into the path of Archie Thompson who faced an empty net three metres away.

While the first half provided a fine feast of excellent soccer, the second half delivered the complete smorgasboard. Colosimo emerged from the dressing room seemingly ready to take on the opposition by himself. After just two minutes he set off on one of his trademark forty metre slalom runs past four opponents but his final shot was well smothered by Jones. Markovski's subsequent corner found McPherson's head but the ball fell to Robert Liparoti who seemed to have time to clear. The alert Colosimo closed down the clearance and fired the loose ball past the outstretched left arm of Jones.

The celebration was suitably unrestrained, as was the response of the Carlton fans in the Western stand, and now we had a real game on our hands.

South drew level three minutes later when a Coveny cross from the left was beautifully taken down by Curcija, who evaded the attention of Douglas and slammed a left foot volley past Anastasiadis. But his good work was undone almost immediately when Robert Liparoti lost possession just outside his own penalty area and John Markovski got to the touchline before pulling back an inviting ball for Archie Thompson to steer home and put Carlton in front for the second time.

Chris Jones then kept South in the match with two important saves. The first from Slater following a dribble and sizzling low cross-shot, while the second denied Thompson a hat-trick after a lovely build-up involving Slater, Markovski and Andrew Packer, who has retained his starting place up front with Markovski since his unexpected selection in that role three weeks ago.

Although he has yet to find the target, his menacing runs and general enthusiasm for the task has left the likes of Alex Moreira and Mike Conroy out of the team.

Twenty minutes into the second half it seemed the home side were headed for victory but Lapsansky motioned to the bench that he needed replacing, a victim of a flu bug and some rugged contestable work, and once he departed the balance began to shift.

Goran Lozanovski, who had been patchy to that point, served up a glorious cross for an unmarked Curcija to nod home the equaliser in the seventy-third minute, but the best goal of the night came five minutes later when Fausto De Amicis scored his first goal for South Melbourne. He was picked out deep on the left flank by a fine searching pass from Steve Iosifidis and with limited options in the middle, cut inside and let fly with a blistering right foot shot from the corner of the penalty area which found the spiders in the opposite top corner.

The goal was a cruel blow for Carlton who had just replaced Colosimo with Moreira, but to their credit they continued to pour forward. Thompson fired a header just wide and Moreira almost beat Jones with a delicate lob after robbing Liparoti, but dreams of a late equaliser were blown away when Daniel Vasilevski lost possession near the halfway mark and John Anastasiadis ran through to sweep the ball under his brother's legs in a classic one-on-one confrontation.

Thompson again almost secured his

hat-trick but was foiled by a fingertip save from Jones, before the crowd could finally draw breath when Gerry Connolly blew for full time.

An air of disbelief and exhilaration hung over the ground, with players and fans of both sides exchanging looks of bewilderment. The mood extended to the coaches as well, with Ange Postecoglou thrilled at his team's "fantastic" finishing.

"I think we've played well the last three or four games, probably the best we've played all year and not got a lot out of it. We obviously had nothing to lose but to see that many goals go in was a bit surprising."

Particularly Fausto's rocket?

"He always gets in those positions.

Even at training we've got a guy specially designated to pick up the balls out of the lake. I was really happy. All our goals were quality goals. Having said that some of our defending was a bit ordinary to say the least."

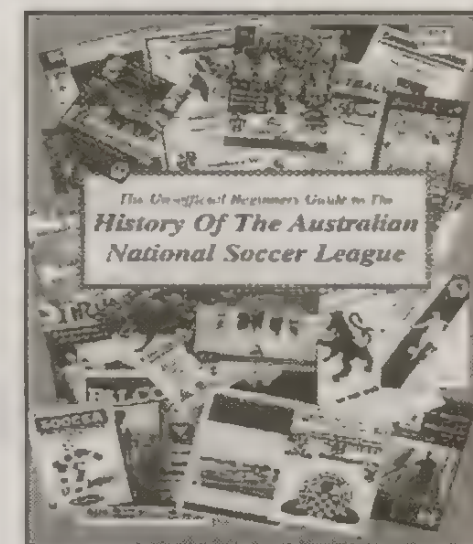
Stuart Munro went further, declaring he couldn't remember a game where his side's defending was so horrible.

"To concede five goals at home is absolutely disgraceful. Really, only one goal, Fausto's goal, was an outstanding goal. The rest should have been avoided. Free headers inside the box, free men allowed to cross the ball freely, all basic defensive errors.

"Hopefully it's the kick up the backside the boys need for the last four games this season. The game was there, it was won.

"My biggest problem obviously was I had to take Lubo off because of his illness, and obviously Simon's situation. You could see he was still penetrating but couldn't get back, and I had to make a change there. Unfortunately these two changes are the two things that probably cost us."

The scene is now set for a classic rematch on Anzac Day, and if Carlton's defensive frailties remain, a further loss in a tricky run home may cost them a lot more than just another three points.



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Play-off hopes checked as Kingz Knighted



MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 4

Urlovic 28, Cervinski 54, Cervinski 65, Pelikan 90+.

FOOTBALL KINGZ 0

Sunday afternoon at Knights Stadium, Melbourne. Crowd: 2,510.

MATCH STATS:



MELBOURNE KNIGHTS:

Acevski, Abbas (Magdic 80"), Kovacevic, Vargas, Rajher, Kiratzoglou, Nasteviski, Susa (Pelikan 72"), Zold, Cervinski (Rados 75"), Urlovic.



FOOTBALL KINGZ:

Duke, Bunce, Perry, Moya (Hickey 59"), Jackson (Osman 59"), Vicelich, Stergiopoulos (Silva 45"), Ngata, Campbell, Rufer, Lammers.

Yellows:

Knights: Cervinski 41

Kingz: Moya 30, Bunce 36

Best Players:

3. CERVINSKI (KNIGHTS)

2. Kovacevic (Knights)

1. Vargas (Knights)

Referee: Con Diomis

By Mark Fisher

For a team missing so many regulars, and with its finals hopes obliterated a fortnight earlier, the Melbourne Knights nevertheless went a long way towards damaging the Football Kingz' chances of making the playoffs in their inaugural season.

Three starters in Kelic, Banini and Silic were missing from the game, allowing youngsters Anthony Pelikan and Slavko Rados the chance to get some valuable late season match play under their belts. Both accepted the opportunity with open arms, coming off the substitute's bench to consolidate what was to be a convincing victory for the home team.

And with 2000/01 contracts up for grabs, they will have done their chances of fronting up to Knights Stadium again in October no harm whatsoever.

For the Kingz, even though a number of goalscoring chances came their way, they could not direct enough of them on target. Aaron Silva did work hard in an attacking midfield role, but Roddy Vargas and Ante Kovacevic stood in the way of any real service through the centre, which meant that the Kingz' options had to come predominantly via the flanks.

At the other end, the Knights again showed how deadly the can be on the break, outrunning and outgunning the Kingz' defence to produce a number of well-finished goals. As Vlado Vanis later reflected, "Every chance we got, we put in the net".

For the first ten minutes of the match the Knights looked sharper on the ball. Cervinski, having a terrific time of it out in the middle, started the momentum with a centering pass to a free-roaming Zeljko Susa, who opened his shots at goal account with a loosener that went well wide.

In the sixth minute Dragi Nasteviski showed why he is in contention for an

Olyroo shirt with some great running down the right flank and inside right corridor. He produced a useful cross from close to the right touchline which could have offered a simple tap in to Paul Urlovic at the near post. Urlovic missed this particular opportunity by a boot length, offering Kingz goalkeeper Daniel Duke an easy low take.

Ante Kovacevic, having returned from inconclusive trials with two American MLS clubs, warmed to the hearty reception he received from the Knights fans when he went on his trademark bursts through the middle.

His seventh minute cross offered Nasteviski an off-target shot. The Knights still had to make some adjustments to their radar if they were going to trouble Duke.

More wayward shooting was to follow - Hungarian import Zoltan Zold, playing in his first full game for the Knights, sent a looper across goal after collecting a spill off the boot of David Moya.

After ten minutes had elapsed, the Kingz showed a little of their form of late with a short sustained period of attack. John Lammers collected a great forward ball from Rufer, then stepped around Kovacevic inside the left edge of the area.

His shot could have been better, but it went high and wide of the mark to give stand-in 'keeper Lupce Acevski a sigh of relief.

Oceania Player of the Century Wynton Rufer also wrong-footed Kovacevic shortly after, and sent the ball forward to Jeff Campbell in space. Campbell elected to shoot from about 20 metres out, drawing a good parry around the right post from Acevski.

The Kingz showed they were good enough to set up great chances, but lacked the direction that might have cast a different complexion on the game in the final analysis.

A first half goal looked a certainty - it was just a matter of waiting and seeing who would get in first. As it was, the Knights lifted a cog by midway through the first half. In the 28th minute Nasteviski threaded an inside ball between the Kingz defence, allowing Paul Urlovic a one-on-one chance with the keeper from 5 metres out.

Urlovic put his first shot into the midriff of Duke, but with the ball spilling forward the New Zealand international striker had a second bite of the cherry against many of his All-White team-mates.

The follow-up shot was powerfully hit into the lower left corner of the net. Urlovic was delighted after having registered his first NSL goal for the Knights.

The remainder of the first half saw the Kingz press forward in the hope of earning an equaliser, but the Knights held firm to see out the half with a 1-0 advantage to the good.

The Kingz picked up where they left off late in the first half, yet looked to be applying a more patient build-up approach in the second stanza of the game.

Vicelich repelled a Knights move with a header in the 51st minute, which fell nicely into the path of substitute Aaron Silva running right through the middle of

the Knights. Silva worked a nice one-two with Rufer, allowing Silva to race forward within the inside right corridor but the little Chilean shot into the side netting.

At the other end the Knights made the most of each chance that availed itself. Cervinski capitalised on a defensive error between Bunce and Ngata in the 54th minute, to completely leave those two in his wake. All that was left to do was to beat the goalie, and Cervinski made no mistake in that department. Being quick to notice Duke's steady progress forward of the goalmouth, Cervinski chipped over the keeper's head. The ball went one bounce and into the open net.

Still the Kingz tried to salvage some advantage on the scoreboard, with no success to speak of. Silva had a good chance to nod in by the 57th minute mark, yet put it wide. Lammers had a shot of his own blocked just in front of goal a few minutes later. Lady luck had abandoned the Footy Kingz at a crucial stage in the season. Levent Osman had a chance at the far post after a clever lay-off from Silva went his way on the right side of the area, yet Osman couldn't find the target and his strike sailed across goal.

The match was to deal two more cruel blows to the Kingz' efforts, in the form of a second goal to Cervinski in the 65th minute, and rounded off with a controlled nailer from strapping youngster Pelikan. Cervinski's goal came courtesy of a superb through ball from Kovacevic, allowing Cervinski to outpace his marker in Ngata.

Cervinski then tried another copy-book chip over the Duke's head, with equal success yet again. Pelikan's goal really rubbed salt into the wounds, as the striker rounded substitute Noah Hickey to open up the angle inside the penalty area.

The resultant shot was flawless - a right-footed smash past the extended left arm of Duke. The Knights ran out convincing winners to the tune of 4-0 - their biggest win of the season.

Vlado Vanis was obviously happy with the result yet did not rate it as his team's best win of the season. He indicated his delight with the way Lupce Acevski, playing in only his second game for the Knights, handled the big match pressure.

With the Knights in 'prepare for next season mode', quite a bit of local talk has centered on who would be retained at Somers Street for next season. Ten players are said to be out of contract at season's end, and with Vanis seeking "three quality players in every department", the axe may be about to be wielded on a squad that has performed above expectation, it must be said.

Vanis himself is yet to sign on the dotted line, further highlighting what appears to be a cash-strapped predicament at Knights Stadium.

Not that the Kingz' off-field situation is any brighter, although it is believed that Sky are very close to



Paul Urlovic: the Kiwi would not be popular back home after his goal got the Knights going for a 4-0 win over Kingz.

completing due diligence with regards to the backing of the Auckland-based club. When asked if he (and brother Wynton) would like to stay on with the Kingz for next season, Shane Rufer emphatically replied in the affirmative.

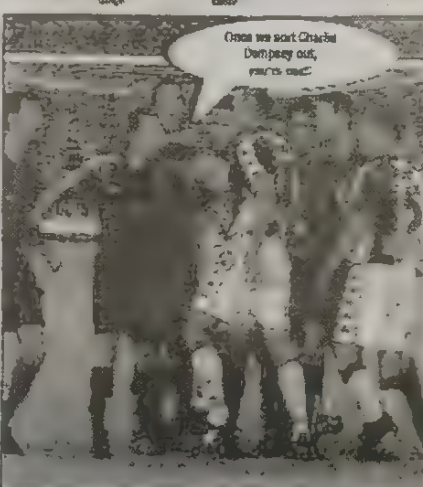
Rufer still thinks his side's playoff chances are not yet dashed, despite the outcome. With this being a season full of surprises, it may be too early to write off any team currently placed from seventh to tenth position on the ladder.

Another four nervous rounds of home and away football to endure - what an amazing game this is.

SITTER!

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Kingz fight back



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Eaten alive! Wolves devour pitiful Cosmos

CANBERRA COSMOS 0 WOLLONGONG WOLVES 6

Chipperfield 37, 44, Young 64, 74, 80, 90.

Friday night at Bruce Stadium, Canberra. Crowd 1,214.



MATCH STATS:



CANBERRA COSMOS: Barlow, Popovich, Polak, Winnie (Purdue 53), Watkins (Kolpak 77), Castro, Hamilton, James, Hooker, Clark, Roberts (Prenzoski 63).



WOLLONGONG WOLVES: Beltrame, Souris, Stanton, Cervinski (Huxley 77), Horsley, Reid, Young, Chipperfield (Blake 77), Spencer, Petrovski (Robertson 45), Mennillo.

Yellows: Nil

Reds: Cosmos: G. Barlow (74).

Best Players:

3: S. YOUNG (WOLVES)
2: D. Cervinski (Wolves)
1: S. Chipperfield (Wolves)

Referee: Craig Zetter



Scott Chipperfield: "The fastest player running with the ball at defences in the NSL," says fellow Wolf Stuart Young.

record for the least number of goals conceded in a season when Dave Ratcliffe's team in the 1991/92 season only let in 17 goals.

Yet for Canberra, the result was the worst ever home defeat, and the second biggest losing margin, the worst being an 8-1 thrashing at Wollongong a few seasons back.

Previous poor performances have driven coach Tom Sermanni to despair. This won may just go further.

But take nothing away from a superb Wollongong who showed their potent attack and solid defence will put them in good stead for the upcoming playoffs.

The two-pronged attack of Stuart Young and Scott Chipperfield notched all the goals whilst nothing was going past David Cervinski. Chipperfield and Cervinski were both subbed off in the second half, but only after they had given their all on the field.

In extremely wet conditions that saw a possibility of the game being called off and for the Youth game to be postponed, both sides took some time feeling each other out as well as getting used to the conditions.

The first attempt on goal did not occur until the 21st minute when a Daniel Watkins shot for the Cosmos rebounded harmlessly away for a corner kick.

Then six minutes later and Canberra had its one and only real chance of the game.

A long ball from the left by Jason Polak went over the defence allowing Harry James to head towards goal, but Daniel Beltrame, in for the suspended Les Pogliacomi, easily blocked the shot before it was cleared by his retreating defenders.

In the 32nd minute Wollongong struck. A throw went to Saso Petroski in the right corner. Even with two defenders on him, he managed to escape and put in a cross.

The ball landed just where Cosmos keeper Grant Barlow was diving and his attempt to hold the ball failed. It bounced

up for an easy head in by Scott Chipperfield.

Wollongong could have doubled the lead within a minute when a quick free kick released Chipperfield. He combined with his attacking partner Stuart Young but when he had a chance to shoot tried to lay it off, only for Andrew Clark to intercept and clear.

The game settled down again with neither side putting any pressure on their opponent's goal, that was until just on half-time.

Canberra had a number of attacking corners and from one Jason Polak decided to send the ball to the corner of the box for Brian Hamilton. Chipperfield intercepted and ran down the field playing a one-two with Young.

The return looked too long with Robbie Hooker in a good position to intercept, but Chipperfield's speed turned it into a 50-50 ball which he won with ease and then from just outside the box chipped the exposed Barlow.

Seven minutes after the break and a ball into David Cervinski saw his rocket of a shot hit David Winnie plum in the face. Laying motionless Winnie was eventually stretchered off the field.

It took 20 minutes into the second half before Wollongong scored their third goal. Paul Reid released Chipperfield down the left and his pin-point cross bisected three defenders to find Young who headed home past a flat-footed Barlow.

Wollongong generated a few more chances when the defence, already in tatters could not clear the ball properly. Noel Spencer saw his shot blocked and then cleared and Young tried an audacious chip when a long kick-out from Beltrame couldn't be cleared by Hooker.

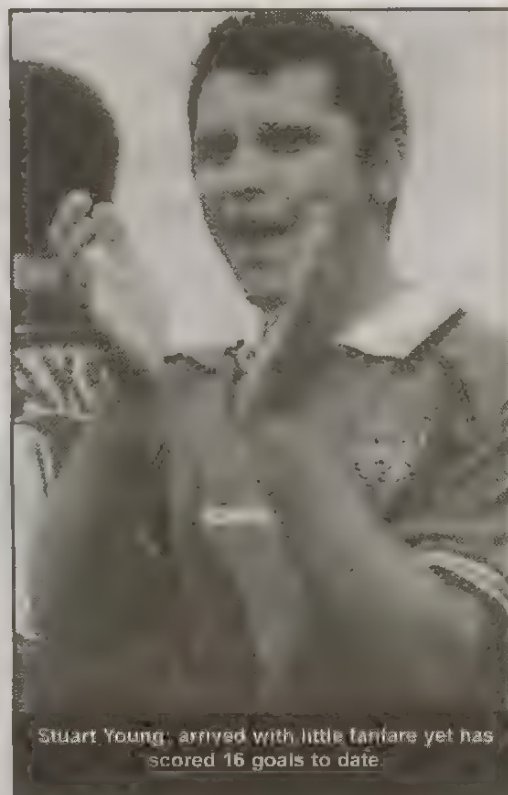
In the 74th minute, Robert Stanton sent a through ball for Chipperfield to latch onto behind the defence.

The ball was just out of the range of Barlow and as Chipperfield pushed it forward Barlow took him out. Not only did this generate a penalty but also Barlow's dismissal.

Following a three minute delay whilst Toplica Popovich changed into the goal-keeper's jersey, Young put in his second from the spot calmly sending Popovich the wrong way.

In the 80th minute a Reid corner-kick to the near post found George Souris.

He fought two defenders before laying the ball inside for Young to complete his hat-trick with a well placed side-foot from some five metres out.



Stuart Young: arrived with little fanfare yet has scored 16 goals to date.

Finally in the dying seconds of the game the capitulation was complete.

Dino Mennillo passed across the box to the right and Matt Horsley, still full of energy, was able to rescue the ball from going over the goal line, sending in a low cross for Young to tap in.

Theodorakopoulos didn't have much to say about the game but said that "I'm happy that we won and obviously such a margin is a bonus".

Tom Sermanni, on the other hand, found it hard to understand what was going on.

He admitted that the first thirty minutes were about even, or maybe a shade towards Canberra, but the last 60 were "pitiful".

"We managed again in our own wonderful fashion to concede a goal basically from a throw-in and one from an attacking corner, and that finished the game.

"Couple that with the third goal and you just wonder what goes on in this team. It was the most pitiful performance I have ever had as a coach for any team I have ever coached.

"In the end to say the performance was disgraceful is an understatement.

"It leaves me at a loss for words. Over the next few days I will really need to consider my position after this game.

"If this is the best I can do with this team then its just not good enough. I'm responsible for the results".



Dave Cervinski: big, strong and dependable. The perfect defender.

By Nick Guoth

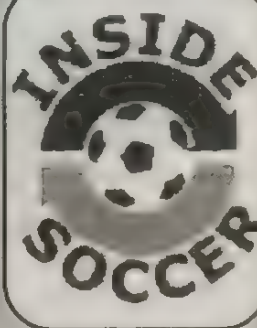
Wollongong Wolves leapfrogged Perth into the lead of the National League competition with a 6-0 thrashing of a poor and disjointed Canberra Cosmos at Bruce Stadium.

In doing so, their six goals takes them to one goal shy of the record for the most 'goals for' scored in a season currently held by the 1982 Sydney City team, although only in 30 games.

Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos said afterwards that "it's good to be part of a side that has scored so many goals - it's a good feeling".

Wollongong also hold the current

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Arambasic double not enough for 'tired' Olympic

BRISBANE STRIKERS 2

Grierson 32, Hews 58.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 2

Arambasic 28,33.

Saturday night at Suncorp Metway Stadium, Brisbane. Crowd: 2,386.

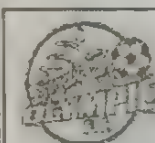


MATCH STATS:



BRISBANE STRIKERS:

1. Bolton, 5. Bell, 9. Foster, 10. Srhoj, 11. Hews, 12. Dwyer, 13. McLaren, 14. North (8. Pilic 65'), 16. Grierson, 18. Meredith (3. Stefanutto 76'), 21. McKain; Sub Not Used: 6. Ditton.



SYDNEY OLYMPIC:

27. Perosh, 2. Thomas, 3. Zoricich, 5. Baillie, 7. Arambasic (26. Duric 83'), 9. Cardozo, 10. Emerton, 12. Sinozic, 16. Goutzioulis, 22. Zorbas, 28. Marusic; Subs Not Used: 17. Kohler, 18. Kyriazopoulos.

Yellows:

Strikers: Jon McKain 38', Matt Bell 90'
Olympic: Zoricich 14', Goutzioulis 81'

Best Players:

3. BRETT EMERTON (OLYMPIC)
2. Zlatko Arambasic (Olympic)
3. Clint Bolton (Brisbane)

Referee: Eddie Lennie



Superb stuff from the Olympic skipper Brett Emerton.

as the scoreboard registered the 1-1 scoreline, but the celebrations did not last long.

The ink on Lennie's scoresheet barely had time to dry before Olympic took the lead once again.

From the restart, Emerton linked with Goutzioulis who in turn found Arambasic in space. The former Belgian professional made no mistakes in beating Bolton for the second time in the game to make the score 2-1 to Olympic with 33 minutes gone.

The score remained until the half time break, and the first ten minutes of the second half were fairly non-descript.

Chay Hews did his best to lift the excitement levels by scoring a terrific equaliser in the 58th minute of play after he linked with McKain for a slow, fine build-up.

From all of 30 metres out, Hews launched a low cracking shot that flew past Perosh and leveled the scores for the second time in the game.

Both teams knew it was crucial for their finals campaigns to take maximum points, and accordingly lifted a gear.

Peter Dwyer's attempted chip of Perosh almost paid off for the Strikers, as did Peter Zorbas' long range effort for Olympic.

Scott Thomas almost put Olympic ahead in the 68th minute with a close-range effort, but Bolton did very well to save with his legs.

In a decision that may have put the final nail in the coffin the Strikers' slim finals hopes, Paul Foster had a headed goal disallowed for offside - a very close decision indeed.

Hews almost became the home town hero in the 84th minute, but Olympic were saved by a coat of paint.

His shot cannoned down off the crossbar, and bounced agonisingly close to the line.

In the end, 2-all was a fair result, but not one needed by either coach.

Brisbane boss John Kosmina said his team was unlucky not to win the match.

"We had a couple of great chances to win the game, and we need to take a little bit more care when we get into good areas of the park," he said.

He also rued some of the refereeing decisions, and was not backward in coming forward with his opinion on refereeing standards in Australia.

"I'd like to have a look at the tape to see if that goal we had disallowed was offside because I saw the linesman put his flag up before it was even knocked in," he said.

"But it wouldn't make any difference anyway because the referees are crap this season and nothing will change. Actually, they're crap every season - they're just more crap this season."

Sydney Olympic coach Branko Culina said his side was capable of playing much better.

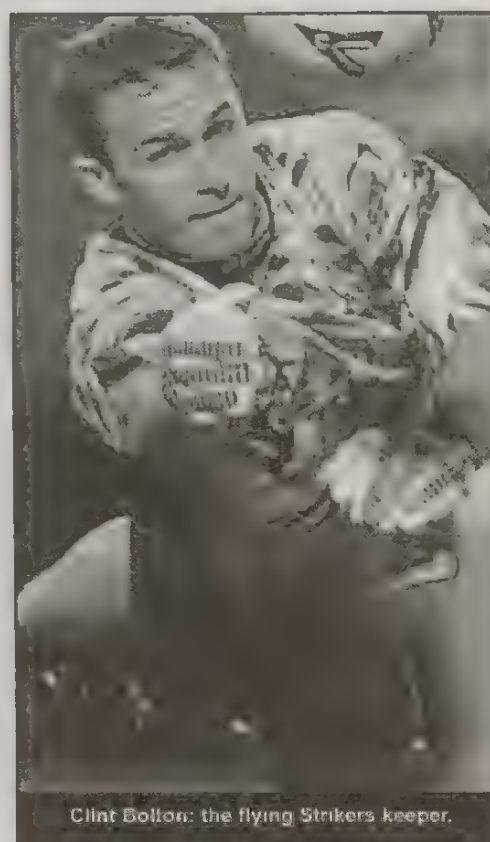
"We looked very tired today and I really don't know why," he said.

"Maybe it's something to do with the water here in Brisbane."

When asked about his side's Top Two chances, Culina said the Six was the major target for his club.

"There's no point talking about first or second when we haven't even reached the Six," he said.

"I think a Top Two position has slipped away from us in the past few weeks.



Clint Bolton: the flying Strikers keeper.

"A lot of our players started talking about the Minor Premiership about six weeks ago when we were in Auckland, and you can't talk like that when there's so long to go.

"The most important thing is our commitment is getting better than what it was in the past five or six weeks, and every point we pick up is valuable."

Kosmina said his side faces an uphill battle to make the Top Six.

"It now means we have to win four on the trot, but I think we're capable of it," he said.

"We can't afford another draw or loss - now we need 12 points out of the next four games. Simple as that. We can't afford to drop another point."

By Cameron Atfield

Three goals in five minutes, and a disallowed Brisbane Strikers goal, stood out in one of the most entertaining matches played at Suncorp Metway Stadium this season on Saturday night.

The crowd, a meager 2,386, was on the edge of their seats as they witnessed a thrilling 2-all draw between Brisbane and Sydney Olympic - two sides that have enjoyed long spells on top of the table this season.

In that pulsating five minute spell, Sydney Olympic striker Zlatko Arambasic scored two goals for the visitors, and Brisbane's mercurial midfielder Peter Grierson scored an absolute classic for the home team - action that would have been missed by any unfortunate souls lining up for drinks.

It was a captivating game that could have gone either way, but with both sides desperate for three points, the end result was disappointing for both teams.

The Strikers started the game most positive and had their first shot on goal in the seventh minute through a long-range speculator from Nick Meredith.

Sydney Olympic was also looking very dangerous and had a great chance 17 minutes in, when an unmarked Arambasic just failed to get on the end of a Brett Emerton header. Strikers keeper Clint Bolton comfortably collected the ball.

Two minutes later, Bolton fumbled a Kresimir Marusic corner, but luckily for the Socceroo custodian, no Olympic players were on hand to capitalise.

Olympic at this stage was beginning to take control of the match, particularly through Olyroo captain Emerton, who was carving them up in the middle.

George Goutzioulis had a long, mazy run, which shirked three Strikers challengers as he went. He laid off for Arambasic, but his chip was easily taken by Bolton.

It was the Goutzioulis-Arambasic combination that lead to the first goal in the 28th minute.

Goutzioulis launched an accurate cross to the near post, where the unmarked Arambasic calmly waited to head the ball past Bolton.

The goal signaled the beginning of one of the more engaging periods of play seen at the ground for some time.

The Strikers immediately went on the attack. Joeys star Wayne Srhoj had a great run into the box, which was dealt with effectively by the Sydney Olympic defence.

The next run of play saw Srhoj's Joeys teammate Jade North have his attack well smothered by Olympic keeper John Perosh.

The equaliser Brisbane had been threatening finally arrived in the 32nd minute - and what a great goal it was.

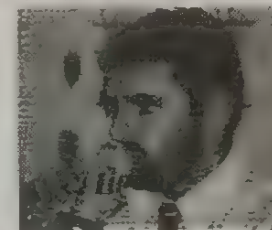
The Strikers were awarded a corner by referee Eddie Lennie, which was taken by youngster Jon McKain.

The ball sailed towards Grierson, who was positioned just outside the penalty area. His powerful header blasted into the top corner, past a bewildered Perosh in the Olympic goal.

The small but vocal crowd erupted



The Australian Fans Perspective



Do Souths really need a Lift?

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MARCONI STALLIONS 4

M. Babic 43, Awaritefe 89, Z. Babic 83, Trajanovski 87.

GIPPSLAND FALCONS 1

Puca 11.

Sunday night at Marconi Stadium, Sydney. Crowd: 2,591.

MATCH STATS:



MARCONI STALLIONS:

Turnbull, Kim, Babic M. Longo, Invincible (Farah 89), Renaud, Gibson, Care (Maloney 62) Zoric, Awaritefe (Trajanovski 81), Babic Z.



GIPPSLAND FALCONS:

Jevdjovic, Savage, Fak, Gotis, Marcina (Robertson 70), Hutchinson, Bell, Vargas, Puca, Nilo (Sekulovski 74), MacNicol (Mandic 84).

Yellow cards

Stallions: Care 35, Renaud 63.

Falcons: Nilo 26, Gotis 44.

Best players

3. Z. BABIC (STALLIONS)

2. M. Babic (Stallions)

1. Puca (Falcons)

Referee: Mark Shield

By John Vrtaric

A half time chat that Marconi coach Eddie Krncevic described as "not a friendly one" turned around a game that the home team seemed to be in grave danger of losing during a lacklustre first half performance.

Although Mark Babic equalised for Marconi late in the half it was the Falcons that were clearly on top for most of the first period as Krncevic conceded after the game.

A bad mistake by Falcons 'keeper Bojo Jevdjovic allowed Babic to score his first goal for Marconi in the 66 matches he has played for them and only his third in 218 National League games.

But it was the striking partnership of Zeljko Babic and Francis Awaritefe that did the damage in the second half as Marconi ran riot late in the game with three goals in the last twenty minutes to consolidate their top six position.

Zeljko Babic was a constant danger to the Falcons defence and his speed gave Dean Fak a hectic night. He capped off a scintillating performance with a well taken goal in the latter stage of the game.

Both teams started the game missing one of the most influential players with Falcons' Mehmed Durakovic ruled out after suffering an injury late in last week's game while Marconi captain Brad Maloney was left on the bench after last week's defeat in Auckland.

The action started early with Andy Vargas taking the ball down the centre past a nonplussed Marconi defence straight from the kick off before shooting well wide.

Zeljko Babic got into the swing of things early too when he got to the by-line in the 2nd minute before cutting it back to Christian Care who toe-poked the ball just

wide of Jevdjovic's left post.

The Falcons got the breakthrough in the 11th minute when a long run down the middle by Doug Marcina saw him feed the ball to Brian MacNicol on the right wing. The striker put over a left foot cross to the far post where an unmarked Robbie Puca had ample time to control the ball and strike a dipping left shot past Michael Turnbull in the Marconi goal.

Falcons outplayed Marconi the middle of the park where they were given too much latitude but nevertheless Marconi had a couple of chances to equalise.

In the 14th minute a free kick from the right by Chad Gibson was missed by the defence on the near post and hit a Marconi player on the knee. It bounced to the ever alert Awaritefe who was prone on the ground but still managed to lash out at the ball but it was well saved by the keeper.

In the 20th minute Marconi had its best opportunity to equalise when Vlado Zoric, who took the place of Maloney, found himself with a one on one situation with Jevdjovic. Zeljko Babic turned his mark effortlessly and produced a precision through ball into the path of Zoric who was unable to beat the Falcons 'keeper.

The Falcons were finding it hard to turn its midfield domination into opportunities but MacNicol had a chance in the 36th minute.

He received the ball wide on the right and took it inside to the edge of the penalty box where he shot across the face of the goal without causing too much consternation for Turnbull.

A minute late a Puca left wing cross after a corner found Manny Gotis just inside the box. The big defender flicked the ball over his marker but his shot was blocked away for a corner.

Falcons soon paid for their lacking of finishing when Mark Babic equalised in the 43rd minute. An infringement on Zeljko Babic wide on the right saw Gibson's free kick land on the penalty spot. The 'keeper came out but was unable to hold onto the ball which dropped in the muddy area around the box and Mark Babic was the first to react to strike the ball into the back of an empty net.

The half time chat soon had the desired affect although Falcons produced the first opportunity in the second half.

A fluent move between John Hutchinson, Puca and MacNicol on the left saw the latter square the ball to an unmarked Clayton Bell who should have done better with his side foot shot which was directed well wide of Turnbull's right post.

Then soon after, the match turned into a Zeljko Babic show as he put on a display of scintillating speed and great skill.

In the 49th minute he delivered a square pass to Awaritefe whose shot was saved by Jevdjovic and Gibson's follow up header brilliantly palmed over by the 'keeper.

In the 57th minute Babic beat two defenders on the right but his left foot cross was too deep for Zoric on the far

post.

Five minutes later Babic turned finisher. A cross from Danny Invincible on the right fell awkwardly for him on the far post but he was able to adjust well to produce a great right foot volley which was well saved by the Falcons 'keeper.

In the 67th minute, Maloney sent Invincible racing down the left from where he sent over a cross to the near post. Babic was there again but jumped over the ball but Renaud's shot on the far post hit the inside of the post and rolled across the goal to safety.

But two minutes later Marconi finally got that elusive second goal. A Babic header was deflected for a corner and Awaritefe outjumped all players from the corner to send the ball searing into the back of the net with the help of a defender on the goal-line.

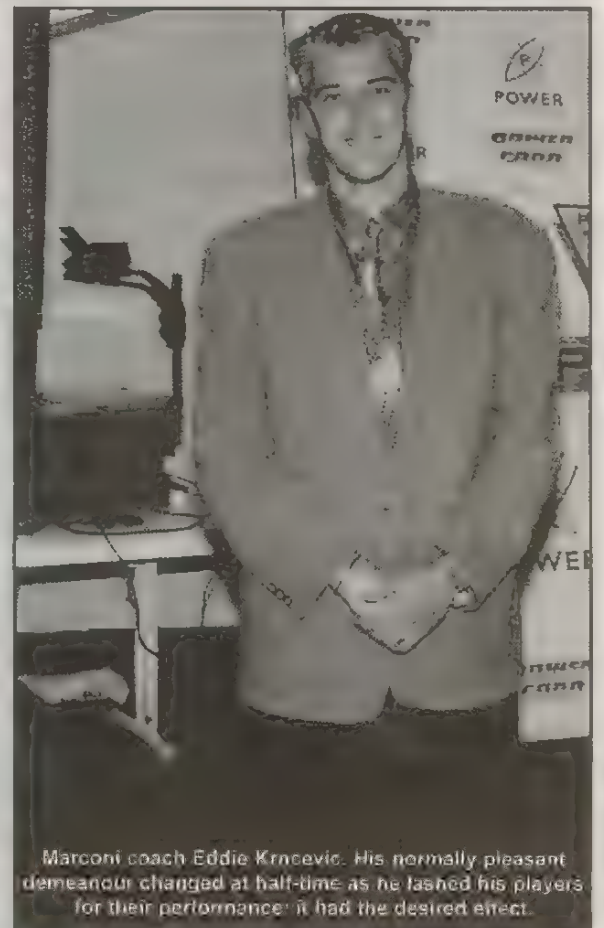
In the 77th minute Invincible, who had an excellent second half, burst through the entire Falcons team taking the ball 20 metres inside his own half. A through ball to Babic on the right was just a touch too long for the speedster with Jevdjovic just beating him to it.

Zeljko Babic was involved in everything and in the 83rd minute he was rewarded for his electric display.

Invincible sent over a cross to the near post where Babic, one of the smallest forwards around but possessing a great leap, headed the ball neatly inside the near post.

Soon after Babic provided Maloney with two good opportunities within two minutes but his captain's luck was out on both occasions.

In the 84th minute a counter attack saw Babic release the ball to Maloney whose shot was saved by the 'keeper's leg. Two minutes later Babic again provided a pass to Maloney inside the box but a claim for penalty was denied by the referee.



Marconi coach Eddie Krncevic. His normally pleasant demeanour changed at half-time as he lashed his players for their performance: it had the desired effect.

In the 87th minute Babic was in the action again. A left foot shot from the edge of the box was deflected to an unmarked Kris Trajanovski who had no difficulty in putting away the chance to record the final score.

It was Babic again that laid on the final chance in the first minute of injury time - a square ball to the charging Gibson whose thunderbolt shot skimmed the top of the crossbar.

A comfortable victory to the home team in the end but one that did not please Krncevic who stated that there is still a lot of things to work on - not least an unsettled midfield which has failed to assert authority in too many games this season.

Nevertheless, the win puts them in a secure top six spot with only a four games to go and with a relatively easy home run.

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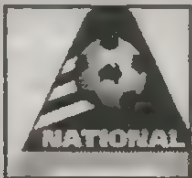
PERTH GLORY 1

Aurelio 69.

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 2

Bounavoglia 20, Harper 70.

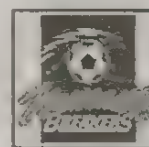
Sunday afternoon at Perth Oval, Perth. Crowd 11,003.



MATCH STATS



PERTH GLORY:
Petkovic, Trajkovski,
Thorp (Ergic 35),
Naven, Valle (Afkos 80),
Miller, Wehrman, Edgar,
Halpin (Despotovski 45),
Edwards, Aurelio.



NEWCASTLE BREAKERS: Catlin,
Pryce, Roberts, Sprod,
McManus, Wiczorek
(Owens 60), Wilson,
Dodd (Smith 71),

Moore, Bounavoglia, Harper.
SUBS NOT USED-Tpcevski

Yellows:

Glory: None
Breakers: McManus 10, Sprod 58.

BEST PLAYER:

3. ANDY HARPER (BREAKERS)
2. John Bounavoglia (Breakers)
1. Bob Catlin (Breakers)

Referee: Simon Micallef

Bounavoglia who headed the ball past Petkovic.

After thirty-five minutes Thorp made way for Ivan Ergic. Wehrman took over his role in marking Harper whilst Ergic took up a position in midfield.

Glory were disrupted further soon



Bob Catlin: like a fine wine, just keeps getting better.

their respective right and left hand sides but the likes of Edwards (who slotted into a midfield role for the second half), Edgar and Wehrman gave the ball straight back to running players like Pryce and McManus.

Afkos replaced Valle after 82 minutes as a last gamble from Stange but it was all to no avail.

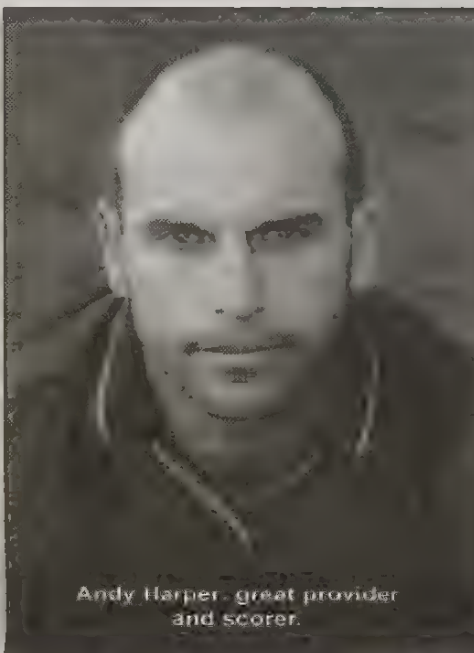
The strong Breakers defence held up well until the final whistle when the visitors embraced each other with the realisation they had inflicted the Glory with their first loss at home since October.

played behind Harper running onto the veteran's passes).

When asked about Bounavoglia's contract he said that perhaps Bounavoglia wouldn't do as well at a bigger club.

Stange commented, "Newcastle was very organised and had great defensive tactics."

Stange also said that Halpin would miss the Marconi game with his knee injury. When asked about the Thorp incident he said he would sort out that problem during the week, he wouldn't comment on what punishment would be meted



Andy Harper: great provider and scorer.



John Bounavoglia: great finisher.

By Dennis Gedling

Perth Glory blew a chance to go back to the top of the NSL ladder after being beaten by a focused and disciplined Newcastle Breakers side by two goals to one at Perth Oval.

Goals from what is quickly becoming one of the most potent line ups of the league in John Bounavoglia and Andy Harper set up the win, with Bob Catlin ensuring little got past him.

These three take the regular trip from Sydney to Newcastle for playing and training.

The visitors focused on making sure key Glory players such as Alistair Edwards and Robert Trajkovski were kept quiet and counter attacking at every opportunity. The incident that most will remember from the match was the reaction by Glory defender Hamilton Thorp when he was subbed near half time. His symbolic taking off of the shirt and throwing away whilst walking straight to the tunnel indicating his disgust at Bernd Stange's decision to sub him.

Glory came into this game without Jamie Harnwell who was out suspended for three vital games with Thorp taking his place in the starting line-up.

The Perth side was the first to attack on goal. A great cross on the right from Trajkovski found Aurelio in the area but his header was just wide.

The Breakers soon were on the attack when a shot from Dodd flew just over the bar.

Bobby Catlin pulled off a good save from Trajkovski free kick but soon after on 20 minutes the away side took the lead. A delightful cross found a running Harper on the left who outpaced Thorp. The veteran's cross was inch perfect for a diving

after when a crunching tackle on Troy Halpin resulted in the star midfielder being subbed for Bobby Despotovski.

Despotovski made an instant impact on the game constantly running at the defence.

Two minutes into the second half Despotovski made a jinky run from midfield passing three defenders in the process. He then passed off to Edgar Junior whose cracking shot beat the keeper but was just millimeters wide.

Glory lay siege on the visitors' goal with wave after predictable wave of attacks but tough defending and the fact that Glory didn't make use of their wing backs to get crosses into the box made it all futile.

On the hour Harper was unlucky not to have a penalty given when he was brought down by Gareth Naven in the box.

After some considerable pressure and numerous corners Glory got lucky when a corner from Scott Miller to the far post was missed by the Breakers keeper and a gift goal for Aurelio resulted. The nippy striker was completely left alone and slotted the ball in before a defender could clear the ball.

Glory was only on level terms for 90 seconds when very poor defending gave the visitors back the lead. After another attempted attack Glory were found out at the back - a quick pass to a running Bounavoglia on the half way line allowed him out paced the Glory defence. The little striker's pass found a running Harper in the box who was unmarked and he easily slotted his shot past the keeper.

Damien Smith replaced an ineffective Dodd after 70 minutes as Glory initiated desperate attacks to claw their way back into the match.

Perth's attacks were predictable as they tried to go through the instead of using the wings. Time after time Trajkovski and Miller were unmarked on

The crowd applauded the jubilant winners off the ground which was well deserved. After the game Breakers coach Lee Sterrey said that he was 'very, very happy' over the result and that his teams goal was to score 56 points this season and there was three to go.

"Our goal was to make the finals, we are almost there and it was great to come to Perth and win again," Sterrey added.

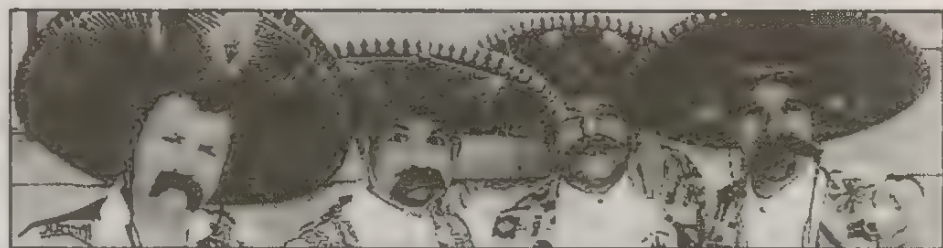
Sterrey made the point that his squad was a happy one with no animosity or ego to hold back their capabilities. Sterrey also praised his strikers who he said could be used in so many different combinations (in this game Bounavoglia

out to the big defender. Thorp commented to say that he knew he had 'upset' a few people and he wasn't too clear on if he would ever play for the team again.

Glory deserved nothing from this game and were out played, out defended, out scored and out coached.

Harper and Sterrey were terrific up front, the captain Pryce, McManus and Catlin, with his vital saves, were also up there for best players honours.

Edgar and Miller the only real shining players for the home side, but as we all know, it's a team game and they had very little support.



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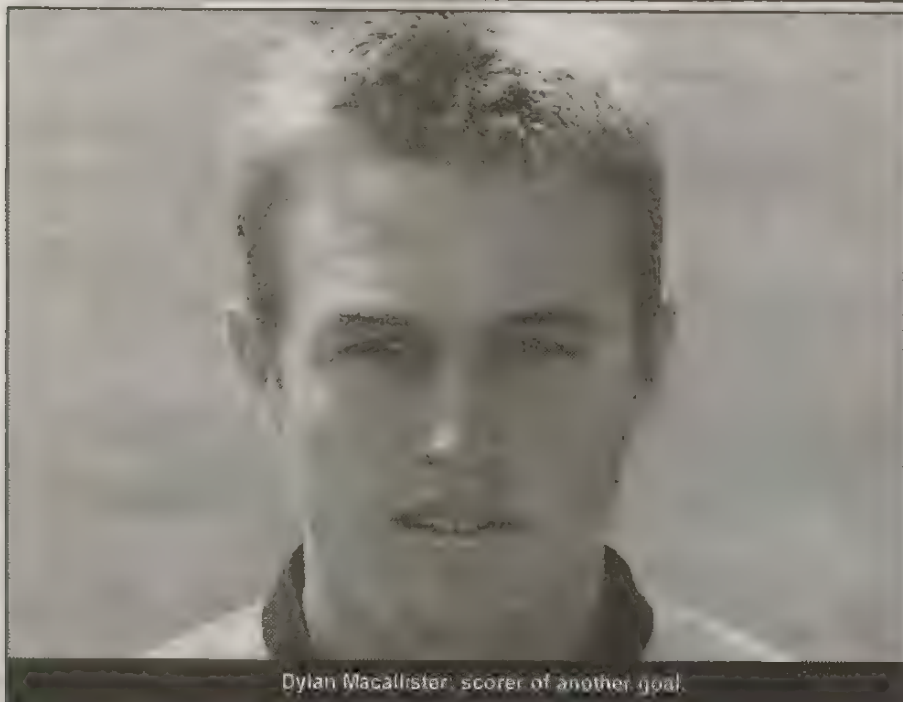
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"Compulsory listening for Melbourne's sports
public," says Inside Soccer's Aidan Ormond



Parramatta power away from rivals



Dylan Macallister, scorer of another goal.

By Theo Katsaros

Two postponed matches were played mid-week with the Marconi Stallions securing a win over Sydney United and the Newcastle Breakers being held to a 1-1 draw by the Sydney Olympic Academy.

Josia Sauturaga Junior scored an 86th minute winner for the Stallions to secure their place in the top four.

The match in the steel city saw Dylan Macallister open the scoring for

Olympic after 11 minutes before the ledger was levelled by Luke Tornich minutes before the break.

The clash between the A.C.T.A.S. and the Wollongong Wolves in Canberra was postponed due to heavy rain just hours before the scheduled kick off time.

League leaders the Parramatta Power have all but sewn up the title after their 5-0 demolition of the N.S.W.I.S. on Friday night. The Power led after 11 minutes when Luke Roodenburg found the back of the net. Matt Thompson doubled the advantage in the 42nd minute. Three second half goals followed.

and held on to their advantage until a minute before the break. Kurt O'Brien equalising for the Breakers.

The Breakers could ill afford to drop any points after their 1-1 draw mid-week and probed for a winner. The goal came after 85 minutes when Robert Angieviski found the back of the Wolves net to clinch the much needed three points.

Sydney Olympic travelled to Brisbane on Saturday and went ahead after 6 minutes via a Chris Seitis strike. The visitors held on to their 1-0 advantage at the break.

Three minutes into the second half an own goal by Anthony Doumanis gifted the Q.A.S. an equaliser. Russell Miner gave the hosts the lead on 66 minutes but the joy was short lived as Seitis struck again to level the scores. Doumanis redeemed his earlier misdemeanour when he scored an 86th minute winner for Olympic.

The Northern Spirit continued their run into the finals with a hard fought 3-2 victory over the Sydney United Colts. The Spirit were assisted by an own goal from the hosts, credited to the unfortunate Michael Cindric.

Simon Catanzaro and James Monie also scored for the victors whilst Tomislav Orlovic and Agyeman Akwasi replied for the Sydney United Colts.

The Newcastle Breakers Colts and the Marconi Stallions Colts battled a 2-2 draw in Newcastle with the most pleasing aspect of the game being the return of action to Breakers Stadium. The venue has suffered at the hands of unseasonable rain over the past month.

Finally, the Marconi Stallions handed the N.S.W.I.S. their second 5-0 loss in three days when the teams met in a postponed Rd 25 fixture. Four second half goals in the space of 25 minutes sealed the Institutes fate.

Daniel Severino increased his season tally to 19 when he struck in the 13th, 63rd and 75th minutes. Michael Beauchamp and Anthony Mondello recorded singles in the 51st and 58th minutes respectively.

John Gibson extended the lead on 53 minutes before Brendan Santalab and Patrick Gatt registered singles for the home side. The Power has a nine-point lead with four rounds remaining.

The Newcastle Breakers kept alive their final's aspirations after snatching a late winner against cellar dwellers the Wollongong Wolves Colts.

The Wolves led after 5 minutes courtesy of a Panayotis Tzolakidis strike

NORTHERN DIVISION NYL

	P	W	D	B	L	F	A	Pts
PARRAMATTA POWER	28	22	4	2	2	88	12	70
Northern Spirit	28	19	4	2	5	81	36	61
Sydney Olympic	28	18	5	2	5	83	38	59
Marconi Stallions	26	18	2	1	6	72	27	56
Newcastle Breakers	26	16	2	1	8	51	32	50
A.I.S.	28	15	4	2	9	81	38	49
Q.A.S.	27	15	3	2	9	77	46	48
Wollongong Wolves	27	12	5	2	10	41	40	41
Sydney United	27	13	1	2	13	45	53	40
A.C.T.A.S.	25	9	7	2	9	39	45	34
Newcastle Colts	28	10	3	1	15	42	54	33
Olympic Academy	28	10	2	2	16	50	85	32
N.S.W.I.S.	27	6	7	2	14	37	48	25
Marconi Stallions Colts	27	6	5	2	16	41	79	23
Northern Spirit Colts	28	5	6	2	17	28	64	21
Sydney United Colts	27	3	4	2	20	29	74	13
Wollongong Colts	27	1	2	2	24	15	121	5

ROUND 30

Newcastle Breakers Tomich 41'	1	Olympic Academy Macallister 11'	1
Marconi Stallions Junior 86'	1	Sydney United	0
Parramatta Power Roodenburg 11', Thompson 42', Gibson 53', B Santalab 75', Gatt 87'	5	N.S.W.I.S.	0
Wollongong Colts Tzolakidis 5'	1	Newcastle Breakers O'Brien 44', Angieviski 85'	2
Q.A.S. own goal 48', Miner 66'	2	Sydney Olympic Seitis 6', 69', Doumanis 86'	3
N.S.W.I.S.	0	Marconi Stallions Severno 13', 63', 75', Beauchamp 51', Mondello 58'	5
Olympic Academy Samonikas 4', Cevenini 67', Tirovski 72'	3	Northern Spirit Colts Majurovski 65', McLean 90' pen	2
Sydney United Colts Orlovic 42', Akwasi 54'	2	Northern Spirit Catanzaro 23', Monie 77', own goal	3
Newcastle Colts Pryce 34', Juchniewicz 64'	2	Marconi Colts (scorers unavailable)	2
A.C.T.A.S. v Wollongong Wolves (Match postponed)			
Marconi Stallions v A.I.S. (Match deferred)			
Bye - Sydney United			

NORTHERN DIVISION - Leading Scorers

Russell Miner	Q.A.S.	23
Daniel Severino	Marconi Stallions	19
Ryan Griffiths	Northern Spirit	16
Alex Brosque	Marconi Stallions Colts	12
Kevo Gulesserian	A.I.S. (Marconi Stallions)	12
Daniel Kukucka	Parramatta Power	12

Round 31 Fixtures

WEDNESDAY 19 APRIL 2000	
Marconi Stallions v Q.A.S. - Marconi Stadium - 6.30pm	
Sydney Olympic Academy v Sydney United - Sydney United SC - 7.00pm	
FRIDAY 21 APRIL 2000	
Wollongong Wolves Colts v Q.A.S. - Brandon Park No. 2 - 3.00pm	
SATURDAY 22 APRIL 2000	
N.S.W.I.S. v Wollongong Wolves Colts - Valentine Park - 4.00pm	
Sydney Olympic v Parramatta Power - Belmore Sports Ground - 4.00pm	
Wollongong Wolves v Q.A.S. - Brandon Park - 4.00pm	
Northern Spirit v A.C.T.A.S. - Christie Park - 4.30pm	
Newcastle B'kers v Marconi Stallions Colts - Breakers Stadium - 5.15pm	
SUNDAY 23 APRIL 2000	
Newcastle Breakers Colts v Sydney United - Breakers Stadium - 4.00pm	
Sydney U'ed Colts v Northern Spirit Colts - Sydney United SC - 4.00pm	
A.I.S. v Sydney Olympic Academy - To be played on Sunday 30 April 2000	
Marconi Stallions - Bye	
TUESDAY 25 APRIL 2000	
Newcastle Breakers v A.C.T.A.S. - Breakers Stadium - 6.30pm	

By Roy Hay

There was only one game in Southern Division this week-end and Bulleen Inter beat Preston Lions four-nil.

All the goals came in the second half after the two teams had negated each other in the first.

Frank Coniglio got the breakthrough for Bulleen in 50 minutes and this was followed by two quick goals from Ricky Catalano in the 51st and 54th minutes. Nick Gutierrez completed the scoring with three minutes left to play.

The VIS had two excellent results in Malaysia on its tour. Ernie Merrick reports:

"Weather is not too hot but very humid. The VIS boys have settled in well. Full schedule - training, ice baths, nutrition, recovery work, sports science, early morning stretch classes, lectures pool sessions and team meetings and we have to play matches as well.

"The VIS were very nervous and struggled with the heat in the first match - VIS v Kuala Lumpur Under 19. We won 1:0 with Michael Sham-Yuen scoring in the 26th minute.

"Fortunately our defence had a good day. The second game - VIS v Selangor Under 21 was a very fast and tough game. We played very well but could not beat the keeper. A nil all draw was good though I felt we were the better team."

SOUTHERN DIVISION NYL

Bulleen Inter 4 Ricky Catalano 2, Frank Coniglio, Nick Gutierrez	Preston Lions 0
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	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carlton	17	13	4	0	64	9	43
VIS	18	14	1	3	55	13	43
Bulleen Inter Kings	19	10	2	7	47	34	32
South Melbourne	16	10	1	5	44	15	31
Melbourne Knights	18	9	3	6	48	36	30
South Dandenong	18	9	3	6	37	31	30
Gippsland Falcons	18	7	4	7	38	40	25
Fawkner Blues	16	4	3	9	18	43	15
Knights Academy	17	4	2	11	16	34	14
Albury Wodonga	18	2	3	13	19	63	9
Preston Lions	19	1	2	16	16	84	5

LEADING GOALSCORERS

Anthony Pelikan	Melbourne Knights	19
David Terek	VIS	12
Peter Kakos	Gippsland Falcons	11
Adam Curcija	Bulleen	10
David Martin	Albury Wodonga	9
Angelo Mtsiopoulos	Carlton	9
Andrew Mashoian	South Melbourne	9
Xhezair Sulimani	Bulleen/South Dandenong	9
Ace Stojcevski	Carlton	7
Evan Papadopoulos	VIS	7

ROUND 20

Monday 24 April 2000
Fawkner Blues v Albury Wodonga - CB Smith Reserve - 3pm

ROUND 21

Tuesday 25 April 2000
Carlton v South Dandenong - Olympic Park - 5 pm
Thursday 27 April 2000
South Melbourne v Fawkner Blues - Bob Jane Stadium - 7pm
Saturday 29 April 2000
VIS v South Melbourne - Grange Reserve - 3.30 pm
Gippsland Falcons v Fawkner Blues - Falcons Stadium, - 4 pm
Sunday 30 April 2000
Melbourne Knights Academy v Preston Lions - Knights Stadium - 4 pm
Melbourne Knights v Bye
Round 16(Deferred)
Wednesday 3 May 2000
South Melbourne v Melbourne Knights Academy - Venue to be arranged - 6.30 pm

Shocks galore in ACT as Monaro go down 4-1

By Nick Guoth

Upsets were the order of the day last Sunday in a rain soaked day. Two of the three teams with a 100% record were beaten leaving Gungahlin Juventus to reside alone at the top of the Novell Premier League table writes Nick Guoth.

At Majura Oval Canberra Olympic scored their first win of the season with a 4-1 victory over previously undefeated Monaro.

Olympic who have shown they can match it with the top teams, especially when you look at their match against Juventus in the first round when they forfeited a 2-1 lead late in the game to lose.

This time they owned the first half and in a two minute spell put on two goals. Njegosh Popovich grabbed the first with Simon Agnello the second.

Late in the half Robbie Perinovic scored from the penalty spot giving Monaro a mountain to climb in the second period.

They made a crucial step just one minute in with Paul Macor scoring, and for the next twenty minutes were in control. That was until Darryl North was sent off for a bad tackle which slowed down the momentum of Monaro allowing Olympic back into the match.

Simon Agnello scored his second goal of the match rounding out the scoring for the day and finishing off any chance of a Monaro comeback.

The other previously undefeated team to lose was Belconnen United. Having scored some 11 goals in their first two games, they looked sure winners over the Capital City Suns who suffered a loss last week.

Yet after six minutes Belconnen were on the back foot when Steve Lee scored for the Suns. Both sides pressed hard in the wet conditions with the Suns acclimatising themselves much better than their opponents. This single

score was the only one of the first half and carried through until a burst of goals in a ten minute period reawakened the game.

First Mil Sredojevic netted for Suns to put them two up and then Belconnen came alive with Daniel Camara and Marko Perinovic scoring and thus bringing the game level.

With only a extra time left on the clock, Steve Lee was brought down in the box and Peter Hader calmly put away the spot kick and give the Suns a 3-2 victory.

At Jamison Oval Gungahlin Juventus showed too much class for the University of Canberra team defeating them to the tune of 7-2.

The win leaves Juventus solely in charge of the top of the table as the only undefeated team and a full game ahead of no less than five teams in second place on two wins out of three.

Steve Lazzari, who was marked out of scoring last week made up for this by notching his first hatrick of the season. His brother Martin scored one as did George Cattanach but John Glass was the recipient of two goals, keeping him in touch with his fellow striker.

Michael Seleke netted the first for the students whilst I've been told Sebastian Rizzo's goal was one to be seen, but unfortunately not enough to keep his side from being totally outplayed by the league favourites.

Canberra Deakin bounced back after their five goal thrashing at the hands of Belconnen United last weekend to defeat Burns FC by a 4-1 margin at Deakin Oval.

Deakin struck early when Vince Bodo set up Tony Lemezina for the first of his two goals. The early goal was the settler for a Deakin side still in shock after last week's result.

A Luka Ujdur corner kick generated a scramble in the Burns penalty area and Paul Gagetti was on hand to put away the scraps, thus bringing about a 2-0 half-time scoreline.

It took only ten minutes for Deakin to

extend their lead to 3-0. An Ujdur free kick from the half-way line went over the defence and Tommy Bajurin beat the defenders to the ball scoring with a nice side-footed shot.

In another break-away Bajurin fed Lemezina for his second goal whilst with five minutes left Andrew Wallace grabbed a consolation goal for Burns putting away a goalmouth scramble.

The final match was at Woden Park, normally the home of Weston Creek Royals, but this time for Tuggeranong United. They ran out convincing 6-0 winners over the Creek.

Weston played very well in the first half-hour with their defensive work exemplary. Their back four were holding their own against the talented Tuggeranong forward line.

Then in a three minute period late in the half, all this hard work was ruined. A long shot from Scott Conlon was mishandled by the keeper who saw it go through his hands, over his head and into the net.

This was followed by a cross to Robert Schroder which was challenged for and not cleared. The ball ran to Marc Conlon who rounded the keeper and slotted the ball home from an acute angle.

12 seconds into the second half the game was all over. From the kick-off the ball was sent down the right for Jeremy Butler to send in a nice cross with Schroder heading in at the near post.

Schroder was the instigator of the next goal when he split the defence with a ball to his striking partner Jason Warren-Smith. Warren-Smith was one-on-one with the keeper and calmly slotted the ball home from 10m out.

Keiran Faulkner came on for Warren-Smith and with his first touch nearly scored if it wasn't for an excellent save by the young Weston keeper, yet three minutes later he made no mistake sending a curling left-foot shot around the keeper.

Butler rounded out the scoring with just over ten minutes left when John Osto put a ball to Faulkner who's delicate flick was picked up by Butler.

Tuggeranong had numerous other chances to score with Scott Conlon being the main culprit on more than one occasion and rocking the upright in the dying seconds with a full-blooded drive from some 25m out.

PREMIER LEAGUE 1ST GRADE:

Tuggeranong United 6 Weston Creek Royals 0, Canberra Deakin 4 Burns FC 1, Canberra Olympic 4 Monaro 1, Capital City Suns 3 Belconnen United 2, Gungahlin Juventus 7 UCU Pumas 2

PREMIER LEAGUE UNDER 23S:

Tuggeranong United 1 Weston Creek Royals 1, Canberra Deakin 3 Burns FC 0, Canberra Olympic 0 Monaro 1, Capital City Suns 2 Belconnen United 2, Gungahlin Juventus 0 UCU Pumas 2

PREMIER LEAGUE UNDER 19S:

Tuggeranong United 2 Weston Creek Royals 1, Canberra Deakin 14 Burns FC 1, Canberra Olympic 1 Monaro 0, Capital City Suns 4 Belconnen United 3, Gungahlin Juventus 2 UCU Pumas 0

TABLE:

GUNGAHLIN JUVENTUS 9

Belconnen United 6
Monaro 6
Capital City Suns 6
Canberra Deakin 6
Tuggeranong United 6
University of Canberra 3
Canberra Olympic 3
Weston Creek Royals 0
Burns FC 0

Quotes of the Week

"But it wouldn't make any difference anyway because the referees are crap this season and nothing will change. Actually, they're crap every season - they're just more crap this season."

Strikers coach John Kosmina tellin' it like it is.

"Maybe it's something to do with the water here in Brisbane." Branko Culina speculating on his "tired" side's performance.

"To win something in any sport you need the rub of the green or the bounce of the ball, and I think we've got that." Glory's Mitch D'vray mixing metaphors nicely

"More Benny Hill defending" A disillusioned Sydney United fan on Friday night against Power.

"G'day Australia, in fact the world." Some AFL lackey presenting yet another propaganda program. Do they seriously think people in London, Rome, Paris, New York give a damm??

"Wollongong for the title ... and they'll win the WCCI" One slightly excited Wollongong fan after their latest win. Settle down, it's only April.

WA league gets underway

The W.A. State League has now kicked off. There were a number of upsets in the opening round of games, including in the local derby between Bayswater City and Ashfield/Bunbury, writes Brett Klucznik.

The busiest man in the opening minutes at Frank Drago Reserve was Ashfield 'keeper Phil Jackson who was heavily involved as City asserted their home ground advantage.

Jackson was called upon three times in the space of five minutes to cut out threatening crosses as his defence worked overtime to cope with the onslaught. Charles Condipodero was again influential from midfield, making several darting runs and supplying Sal Marrapodi and Bobbi Klenkovski with plenty to work with.

Ashfield were very hesitant in defence and this proved to be their undoing in the 18th minute. Condipodero was brought down heavily on edge of box in what looked to be a clear foul but referee Paul Middleton thought otherwise and allowed play to continue. Marrapodi reacted quickest to the spilt ball and hit it hopefully goalward, catching Jackson flat-footed and he could only watch on as the ball dribbled over the line after it tumbled into his right up-right.

City continued to control the game and shortly after the goal Klenkovski caught a deep cross and out-manoeuvred his man but crashed his shot against the post. His side were going forward in waves, quick to race down the flanks and get the ball into their opponents defence third.

But with their first promising foray into attack, Ashfield stunned the home crowd by finding the back of the net against the run of play. A 34th minute scramble for possession on the edge of the area saw Garic gather control before hitting a curling shot from 18metres around Simon Madaschi that crept in at the far post.

Alan MacKenzie smacked a free header over the bar from 6 metres, and Klenkovski tested Jackson after a teasing run through his

defence, the Ashfield custodian getting down low quickly across the 6 yard box to block the shot.

Jason Van Roy pumped the ball from the centre of the pitch to the edge of the box where Marrapodi expertly beat his opponent and ran the ball towards the line. His centring pass picked out Klenkovski who smashed a low shot from 6metres which Jackson amazingly kept out.

With 61 minutes gone City were reduced to ten men after an incident, which completely changed the complexion of the game.

A deep cross found David Mayers who played the ball to feet before rocketing a shot goalward which Madaschi stretched to parry. Garic picked up the crumbs and shot with Madaschi still prostrate on the ground, only for Alex Novatsis to fill in for the 'keeper on the line and thump the ball over the bar with his fists.

Referee Paul Middleton had no hesitation in sending off Bayswater player and awarding a penalty which Madaschi duly saved.

The introduction of substitute Brett Norrie by the Ashfield staff proved to be an inspired move as he sparked life into the side. City found it difficult to adjust to ten men and re-formed their line-up to leave Marrapodi stranded up front as the lone target man.

Having been reliable throughout the opening 45 minutes, City's backline now started to show weaknesses as Ashfield continually put them under pressure, seizing upon the player advantage.

With little over quarter of an hour remaining, Garic slammed the ball into the up-right from a tight angle having taken on and rounded two defenders, the rebound fell to Norrie's feet and he belted it over the line to give Ashfield a deserved lead after a prolonged period of dominance.

The goal knocked the wind out of City's sails and their hopeful response was to bring on last weekend's goal-scoring hero Albert

Odie Tutu. It wasn't long before he was in the thick of the action - a long pass over the Ashfield defence was run onto by the speedy forward who then proceeded to bamboozle the entire Ashfield defence and make a scoring chance out of nothing. But with him being the only City player in their attacking half, Odie Tutu was let down by his team mates and he ended up going it alone and shooting wide. Unfortunately he came off injured three minutes later as City's hopes seemingly faded.

Just as the game was winding down, Condipodero popped up in the 83rd minute to keep it alive with a blistering solo strike from 18metres which Jackson had no chance of keeping out.

Looking tired and uninspired since the break, an urgency returned to City's game as they sought to find an equaliser and get a point out of this contest.

Condipodero, Pottier and Van Roy all had chances to equalise but couldn't make most of them amongst some scrappy play. In the end Ashfield struggled to hold on to their slender lead until the final whistle for a hard earned victory after a lifeless opening.

Bayswater City: Simon Madaschi, Marc Wingell, Allan Pottier, Dom Giorgi, Alex Novatsis, Jason Van Roy, Dom Ando, Alan MacKenzie, Charles Condipodero, Bobbi Klenkovski (Paul DaSun Martino 65), Sal Marrapodi (Albert Odei Tutu 75 (Jamie Kunkar 83))

Ashfield/Bunbury: Phil Jackson, Daniel Trim, Nathan Salisbury, Damian Trim, Shane Fuhr, Gyula Koncsek (Gene Wyllie 54), Steve Goff (Brett Norrie 57), David Mayers (Steven Rogers 83), Steve Gillibrand, Savo Ganc, Adrian Spinelli

Referee: Paul Middleton

*Please note, due to technical difficulties, we are running a week behind in our WA state league coverage.

Super League Summary

It took just 35 minutes for Bonnyrigg to stamp their authority over Super League championship hopefuls, Leichhardt Tigers, on Sunday with Johnny Ghisso scoring his 12th goal for the season.

Bonnyrigg were 3-0 up at the Tigers den at Lambert Park before Leichhardt's captain, Steve Karavatakis, pulled one back for the home side.

Bonnyrigg now go to the top of the Super League table, one point clear of arch-rivals, Blacktown, and four points clear of Leichhardt and St George.

After a Central Coast official complaining last week that they needed someone who scored goals to arrest the team's slide from finals contention, up stepped Nathan Bym who bagged four goals in the Coasties 5-1 win over Eastern Suburbs Wanderers at Plum Park.

In a highly entertaining game, in which both sides were on the attack for most of the 90 minutes, the teams were level on 1-1 until Bym scored his second in the 62nd minute,

tenders, Parramatta Eagles, at Cromer Park. In a game of two scoring halves, the Eagles look set for a comfortable victory after being 0-2 up at half-time through two goals in two minutes from Adam Anderson and Anthony Mittiga when David Kuhn struck back for the Dolphins in the last few minutes of the game.

Blacktown's defenders were working overtime in the first-half against the lone target man for Bankstown City, George Issa, as Bankstown's midfield continually fed the speedy forward. However, it was Super League's top scorer, Blacktown's Mark Hagger, who opened the scoring with a curling left-foot shot from the edge of the penalty-box in the 21st minute.

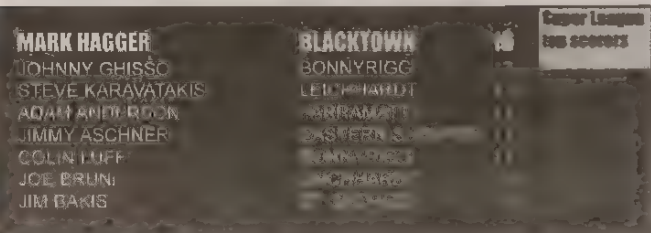
Bankstown threw everything at the visitors in search of a second-half equaliser but were unable to penetrate the strong defensive line-up of Blacktown.

Fairfield again entertained the crowd with 17 shots on goal, but managed to score only two - but at least for a 2-1 victory over Sutherland Sharks.

Mark Hoenselaars and Matthew Borg scored for Fairfield, both courtesy of lead-up work from the other, while Philip Wurth scored from close range in the 57th minute.

St George had a workmanlike 1-0 win over Macarthur Rams at St George Stadium.

Next round sees games throughout the Easter weekend, Canterbury Marrickville hosting St George on Easter Sunday in a 'must win' situation for the Berries. Central Coast play the curtain raiser against Bankstown at North Power Stadium on Easter Saturday prior to the Northern Spirit v Canberra NSL game; while there's action galore at Parramatta Stadium on Anzac Day when four Super League clubs fight out prior to the NSL match - the game between Blacktown and Leichhardt at 5.30pm (a rescheduled fixture from a rainy weekend), should be a cracker of a game with both teams desperate to establish superiority.



followed up by one from youngster Cal Roper, and two more before calling it a day.

Canterbury Marrickville took an early lead at Andrews Road Field with Jimmy Nikas scoring in the 3rd minute, but Penrith Panthers came back and finally had the win that has mostly eluded them so far this season. The loss doesn't help Canterbury's chances of making the finals, putting them three points outside the top 5 with one more game played than most of their rivals.

Another team which hasn't performed to expectations in the jump-up to Super League in Manly Warringah had a surprise draw against perennial championship con-

NSW RESULTS

FEDERATION DIVISION ONE: FIRST GRADE: Dulwich Hill 1(T Pontidas 44m), M S C Liverpool 1(J Amandulla 49m); Hajduk Wanderers 2(T Gledhill 60m, R Giometti 67m), Stanmore Hawks 1(M Adams 83m), Illawarra Lions 1(D D'Orso 73m), Fraser Park 1(D Rosenthal 65m), AC United 1(N Rivera 13m), Rockdale City Suns 2(S Najdoski 75/82m), Auburn United 3(M Kadayici 44m, H Vardar 48m, C Elgun 79m), Bathurst 75 1(M Rooke 28m), Ryde City Gunners 1(G Wilson 51m), Hurstville City Minotaurs 2(S Klads 54m, M Hussein 88m) **Under-21:** Dulwich Hill 2-3 M.S.C. Liverpool, Hajduk Wanderers 1-1 Stanmore Hawks, Illawarra Lions 2-8 Fraser Park, AC United 7-0 Rockdale City Suns, Auburn United 2-1 Bathurst 75, Ryde City Gunners 2-1 Hurstville City **Under-18:** Dulwich Hill 0-4 M S C Liverpool, Hajduk Wanderers 0-0 Stanmore Hawks, Illawarra Lions 0-7 Fraser Park, AC United 2-2 Rockdale City Suns, Auburn United 1-4 Bathurst 75, Ryde City Gunners 3-0 Hurstville City

FEDERATION DIVISION TWO: First-Grade: Greystanes 2-0 White City, Mt Druitt Town Rangers 1-1 Hurstville ZSC, Mt Pritchard 0-1 Belmore Hercules Sydney District 0-5 Central Coast Lakers, Hakoah 3-1 Sydney University, University Of NSW 1-0 Hills United **Under-21:** Greystanes 2-0 White City, Mt Druitt Town Rangers 1-3 Hurstville ZSC, Mt Pritchard 1-0 Belmore Hercules, Sydney District 2-1 Central Coast Lakers, Hakoah 2-5 Sydney University, University Of NSW 1-1 Hills United **Under-18:** Greystanes 2-1 White City, Mt Druitt Town Rangers 1-0 Hurstville ZSC, Mt Pritchard 2-2 Belmore Hercules Sydney District 1-3 Central Coast Lakers, Hakoah 0-1 Sydney University, University Of NSW 2-1 Hills United

FEDERATION DIVISION THREE: First-Grade: Balmain 3-0 Trasandinos, The Wanderers 0-0 Camden Tigers, Colo Colo 0-2 Western Sydney Lions, Prospect United 3-1 Holy Cross Ryde, Liverpool City 1-8 Nepean District, Prineewood United 1-1 Parramatta City **Reserve Grade:** Balmain 9-0 Trasandinos, The Wanderers 1-0 Camden Tigers, Colo Colo 0-2 Western Sydney Lions, Prospect United 0-2 Holy Cross Ryde, Liverpool City 2-6 Nepean District, Prineewood United 3-2 Parramatta City

FEDERATION DIVISION FOUR: First-Grade: Sporting SCC 2-1 Eastern Creek Pioneers, Maroubra United 0-2 CSI Schofields, Granville Greensland 0-4 Kellyville Kolts, Marrickville 1-0 United Eagles, Hawkesbury City 1-1 Springwood, Sydney Crescent Star 6-5 Auburn Star **Reserve Grade:** Sporting SCC 1-1 Eastern Creek Pioneers, Maroubra United 5-3 CSI Schofields, Granville Greensland 2-2 Kellyville Kolts Marrickville 1-6 United Eagles, Hawkesbury City 0-0 Springwood, Sydney Crescent Star 7-4 Auburn Star

FEDERATION DIVISION FIVE: FIRST GRADE: Kosciusko 2, Fairfield City 1; Bossy 8, Western Sydney Passion 0; Lithgow Workmen 1, UTS 4; Hinchinbrook Juniors 0, Liverpool Olympic 3; Petersham 14, Biron Sports 0. **RESERVE GRADE:** Kosciusko 4, Fairfield City 1; Bossy 4, Western Sydney Passion 1; Lithgow Workmen 0, UTS 1; Hinchinbrook Juniors 0, Liverpool Olympic 3; Petersham 4, Biron Sports 0.

WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE: FIRST GRADE GRADE 21: Marconi 13, Nepean Association 0; Wollongong Wolves 3, Macarthur Rams 2; Sutherland Sharks 0, Marconi 1; Gladesville Ravens 0, Manly Warringah Dolphins 1; Nepean Association 2, Central Coast Lakers 4.

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE: FIRST GRADE: Bathurst City 1, Hajduk Wanderers 3; Roselands Raptors 1, St George Association 3; CSI Schofields 0, Gladesville Hornsby Koalas 8. **GRADE 19:** Bathurst City 0, Hajduk Wanderers 1; Roselands Raptors 2, St George Association 1; CSI Schofields 0, Gladesville Hornsby Koalas 8.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE: GRADE 13: Macarthur Rams 0, Sydney United 2; Bankstown City 2, Manly Warringah Dolphins 1; Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 0, Penrith Panthers 3; Fairfield Bulls 5, Leichhardt Tigers 5; Sutherland Sharks 2, Marconi Stallions 1; Wollongong Wolves 3, Sydney Olympic 3; Newcastle Breakers 2, Sydney United 1; Central Coast Coasties 2; Northern Spirit 3; Blacktown City Demons 3, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0; Parramatta Eagles 0, Macarthur Rams 0; Canterbury Marrickville 0, St George 3; Penrith Panthers 1, Central Coast Coasties 0. **GRADE 14:** Macarthur Rams 0, Sydney United 2; Bankstown City 1, Manly Warringah Dolphins 1; Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 4, Penrith Panthers 1; Fairfield Bulls 2, Leichhardt Tigers 1; Sutherland Sharks 3, Marconi Stallions 0; Wollongong Wolves 1, Sydney Olympic 1; Newcastle Breakers 1, Sydney United 1; Central Coast Coasties 0, Northern Spirit 5; Blacktown City Demons 3, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0; Parramatta Eagles 2, Macarthur Rams 1; Canterbury Marrickville 3, St George 2; Penrith Panthers 3, Central Coast Coasties 0. **GRADE 15:** Macarthur Rams 0, Sydney United 2; Bankstown City 1, Manly Warringah Dolphins 1; Fairfield Bulls 1, Leichhardt Tigers 2; Sutherland Sharks 2, Marconi Stallions 3; Wollongong Wolves 1, Sydney Olympic 0; Newcastle Breakers 1, Sydney United 3; Central Coast Coasties 0, Northern Spirit 1; Blacktown City Demons 1, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0; Parramatta Eagles 0, Macarthur Rams 1; Canterbury Marrickville 0, St George 1; Penrith Panthers 2, Central Coast Coasties 0.

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 7: GRADE 13: Southern Branch 9, Mt Pritchard 0; Hajduk Wanderers 0, Blacktown Association 1; Canterbury Association 1, Ryde City 9; Stanmore Hawks 0, Hills United 6; Rockdale City Suns 0, Illawarra Lions 0; AC United 3, Nepean Association 0. **GRADE 14:** Southern Branch 2, Mt Pritchard 1; Hajduk Wanderers 2, Blacktown Association 0; Canterbury Association 1, Ryde City 1; Stanmore Hawks 1, Hills United 3; Rockdale City Suns 1, Illawarra Lions 5; AC United 1, Nepean Association 1. **GRADE 15:** Southern Branch 2, Mt Pritchard 1; Hajduk Wanderers 3, Blacktown Association 1; Canterbury Association 1, Ryde City 0; Stanmore Hawks 3, Hills United 1; Rockdale City Suns 1, Illawarra Lions 1; AC United 5, Nepean Association 3. **GRADE 16:** Southern Branch 2, Mt Pritchard 1; Hajduk Wanderers 3, Blacktown Association 1; Canterbury Association 0, Ryde City 3; Stanmore Hawks 1, Hills United 0; Rockdale City Suns 2, Illawarra Lions 8; AC United 2, Nepean Association 0.

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 8: GRADE 13: Southern Branch 7, Illawarra Lions 0; Blacktown Association 3, Mt Pritchard 0; Ryde City 4, Hajduk Wanderers 0; Hills United 3, Canterbury Association 1; Nepean Association 0, Stanmore Hawks 1; Rockdale City Suns 2, AC United 0. **GRADE 14:** Southern Branch 0, Illawarra Lions 2; Blacktown Association 6, Mt Pritchard 0; Ryde City 2, Hajduk Wanderers 3; Hills United 3, Canterbury Association 1; Nepean Association 3, Stanmore Hawks 0; Rockdale City Suns 2, AC United 2. **GRADE 15:** Southern Branch 4, Illawarra Lions 2; Blacktown Association 1, Mt Pritchard 1; Ryde City 1, Hajduk Wanderers 1; Hills United 0, Canterbury Association 1; Nepean Association 2, Stanmore Hawks 0; Rockdale City Suns 2, AC United 5. **GRADE 16:** Southern Branch 2, Mt Pritchard 1; Hajduk Wanderers 3, Blacktown Association 1; Canterbury Association 0, Ryde City 3; Stanmore Hawks 1, Hills United 0; Rockdale City Suns 2, Illawarra Lions 8; AC United 2, Nepean Association 0.

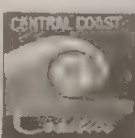
DIVISION TWO YOUTH LEAGUE: GRADE 13: Camden Tigers 2, Ku-Ring Gai Association 2; Hurstville City Minotaurs 0, Central Coast Lakers 7; Hawkesbury City 0, CSI Schofields 3; Parramatta City 2; Granville Association 2; MSC Liverpool 2, Mt Druitt Town Rangers 2; Central Coast Lakers 2, Camden Tigers 2; Ku-Ring Gai Association 2, Hawkesbury City 0. **GRADE 14:** Camden Tigers 0, Ku-Ring Gai Association 0; Hurstville City Minotaurs 0, Central Coast Lakers 7; Hawkesbury City 3, CSI Schofields 0; Parramatta City 0, Granville Association 2; MSC Liverpool 0, Mt Druitt Town Rangers 2; Central Coast Lakers 0, Camden Tigers 2; Ku-Ring Gai Association 2, Hawkesbury City 3. **GRADE 15:** Camden Tigers 0, Ku-Ring Gai Association 0; Hurstville City Minotaurs 0, Central Coast Lakers 2; Hawkesbury City 3, CSI Schofields 3; Parramatta City 0, Granville Association 3; MSC Liverpool 2, Mt Druitt Town Rangers 1; Central Coast Lakers 3, Camden Tigers 0; Ku-Ring Gai Association 2, Hawkesbury City 1. **GRADE 16:** Camden Tigers 0, Ku-Ring Gai Association 2; Hurstville City Minotaurs 0, Central Coast Lakers 2; Hawkesbury City 2, CSI Schofields 2; Parramatta City 4, Granville Association 0; MSC Liverpool 0, Mt Druitt Town Rangers 1; Central Coast Lakers 3, Camden Tigers 0; Ku-Ring Gai Association 2, Hawkesbury City 1.

SUPER CADET LEAGUE: GRADE 11: Macarthur Rams 1, Sydney United 0; Central Coast Coasties 3, Northern Spirit 0; Bankstown City Cubs 0; Manly Warringah Dolphins 1; Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 2, Penrith Panthers 1; Fairfield Bulls 0, Leichhardt Tigers 8; Sutherland Sharks 2, Marconi Stallions 0; Wollongong Wolves 1, Sydney Olympic 3; Blacktown City Demons 7; Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0; Parramatta Eagles 1, Macarthur Rams 2; St George 1, Canterbury Marrickville 2. **GRADE 12:** Macarthur Rams 2, Sydney United 2; Central Coast Coasties 3, Northern Spirit 0; Bankstown City Cubs 4; Manly Warringah Dolphins 2; Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 3, Penrith Panthers 1; Fairfield Bulls 1, Leichhardt Tigers 3; Sutherland Sharks 1, Marconi Stallions 3; Wollongong Wolves 0, Sydney Olympic 1; Blacktown City Demons 5, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0; Parramatta Eagles 0; Macarthur Rams 3; St George 2, Canterbury Marrickville 3.

CADET LEAGUE DIVISION ONE: GRADE 11: Mt Pritchard 1, Mt Druitt Town Rangers 1; Illawarra Lions 3, AC United 1; Central Coast Lakers 3, Hurstville City Minotaurs 0; Hills United 0, CSI Schofields 0; Hajduk Wanderers 1, Hawkesbury City 3; Stanmore Hawks 3, M.S.C. Liverpool 1; Ryde City 3; Mt Druitt Town Rangers 0; Mt Pritchard 2, Rockdale City Suns 1; Parramatta City 0; MDSFA Cadets 2. **GRADE 12:** Mt Pritchard 0, Mt Druitt Town Rangers 4; Illawarra Lions 0; AC United 2; Central Coast Lakers 3, Hurstville City Minotaurs 0; Hills United 1, CSI Schofields 3; Hajduk Wanderers 4, Hawkesbury City 1; Stanmore Hawks 5, M.S.C. Liverpool 1; Ryde City 1, Mt Druitt Town Rangers 0; Mt Pritchard 1, Rockdale City Suns 5; Parramatta City 1, MDSFA Cadets 1.

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BANKSTOWN CITY
LIONS



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Saints win but finishing lets them down

ST GEORGE SAINTS 1

E Papageorgiou 51m

MACARTHUR RAMS 0

Sunday afternoon at St George Stadium, Sydney.



header straight at Saints 'keeper Les Bihari.

Another Williams header was cleared off the goal line by George Maglis in the 71st and Bishop followed up with a blistering drive that flew millimetres over the crossbar.

By Ben Cubby

After squandering countless goalscoring opportunities, St. George finally managed to record a 1-0 victory over Macarthur Rams on Sunday afternoon.

Emmanuel Papageorgiou knocked in the winner for St. George early in the second half, although the home side should really have had it wrapped up long before then.

Macarthur started strongly, but soon found themselves overwhelmed by the more mobile and attack-minded St. George unit.

Two former Wollongong players combined to carve out the Rams' best chance of the first half, straight from the opening whistle.

The St. George defence failed to clear a Chad Bishop corner in the 1st minute and Richard Lloyd rifled a powerful shot into the side netting.

After this early scare, St. George began to find their passing rhythm, with Bill Petrovski and Elias Augerinos running the show from midfield.

The pace of Jim Bakis constantly caught the Rams flat footed. Unfortunately the diminutive forward couldn't find the finishing touches to complete a number of impressive moves.

His strike partner Papageorgiou was equally profligate. In the 20th minute, he ran onto a superb through pass from Petrovski but lost control of the ball with only the 'keeper to beat.

Rams goalie Peter Munsie - a former Australian schoolboy representative - saw a lot of action in the first half, keeping his side in the match with half a dozen alert catches and interceptions.

Papageorgiou scored what turned out to be the winner in the 51st minute. He zigzagged past a couple of defenders on the edge of the 18-yard box, found space on the right, and smashed an angled shot past Munsie into the far corner of the net.

The tempo lifted markedly after Papageorgiou's goal, as the Rams launched a series of attacking sorties.

Bishop was a standout for the visitors. His 67th minute cross found Eric Williams unmarked in the 6-yard box, but the striker directed a timid

For St. George, the emphasis began to switch from all-out attack to hanging on to a slender lead. Michael Kladis stood firm at the back, defusing several Macarthur raids, and teammate Angelo Petratos committed himself to a number of vital tackles.

Macarthur's Matt O'Shea drew a good save from Bihari in the 80th, and then struck the post in the 85th, after good leadup work from Daniel Cummins.

Papageorgiou had a golden chance to bury the visitors late in the game. He sprinted through a tired Rams defence and beat Muncie with a low shot, only to see the ball hit the inside of the upright and roll harmlessly across the face of goal.

Referee Greg Leverton added 5 minutes of stoppage time because of earlier injuries to St. George's Achilles Markopoulos and Macarthur's Paul Bentvelzen.

The Rams kept St. George under constant pressure during the dying stages, but the Saints ultimately survived to gain the three points from a frustrating match.

The home side clearly missed the experienced Mark Brennan in this fixture; the Englishman will be out for some weeks with a foot injury.

His replacement Bill Petrovski had an outstanding match, though, and he looks to be an excellent long-term prospect for the club. Kladis, Augerinos and Petratos also did well for the Saints.

Combative midfielder Chad Bishop was the pick of a suprisingly listless Macarthur lineup. His best support came from O'Shea, Lloyd, Ben Willard and veteran Martin Bourke.

ST. GEORGE: Bihari, Verrender, Bolianitis, Kladis, Sevares, Petratos, Bakis (Galea 90), Augerinos, Petrovski, Markopoulos (Maglis 38), Papageorgiou.

MACARTHUR RAMS: Munsie, Goodfellow (Bentvelzen 56, Macerola 68), Willard, Bourke, O'Shea, Issa, Williams, Cummins, Lloyd, Bishop (McAusland 89), Judge.

Referee: Greg Leverton.

Super League Tables

FIRST GRADE:	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES	14	10	0	4	40	26	14	30
Blacktown City Demons	14	9	2	3	41	13	28	29
Leichhardt Tigers	13	8	2	3	32	19	13	26
St George Saints	14	8	2	4	26	20	6	26
Parramatta Eagles	14	6	6	2	33	23	10	24
Central Coast Coasties	14	6	3	5	26	20	6	21
Canterbury Marrickville	15	7	0	8	25	34	-9	21
Bankstown City Lions	15	5	4	6	22	22	0	19
Fairfield Bulls	14	5	3	6	22	23	-1	18
Eastern Suburbs	14	5	1	8	25	31	-6	16
Macarthur Rams	14	3	5	6	17	22	-5	14
Penrith Panthers	13	4	1	8	14	32	-18	13
Manly Warringah Dolphins	14	2	4	8	16	31	-15	10
Sutherland Sharks	14	3	1	10	16	39	-23	10

UNDER 21	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
CENTRAL COAST COASTIES	14	9	2	3	24	15	9	29
Blacktown City Demons	14	8	4	2	32	18	14	28
Penrith Panthers	13	8	1	4	28	21	7	25
Leichhardt Tigers	13	7	2	4	27	18	9	23
Parramatta Eagles	15	6	4	5	22	17	5	22
Manly Warringah Dolphins	14	6	2	6	28	26	2	20
St George Saints	14	5	4	5	25	22	3	19
Macarthur Rams	14	6	1	7	20	25	-5	19
Canterbury Marrickville	15	5	2	8	24	33	-9	17
Sutherland Sharks	15	4	5	6	21	31	-10	17
Fairfield Bulls	14	4	3	7	20	26	-6	15
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	14	3	5	6	19	24	-5	14
Eastern Suburbs	14	3	5	6	19	28	-9	14
Bankstown City Lions	15	3	4	8	29	34	-5	13

UNDER 18	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
PARRAMATTA EAGLES	15	11	1	3	44	19	25	34
Blacktown City Demons	14	9	4	1	26	10	16	31
Fairfield Bulls	14	10	1	3	29	17	12	31
Leichhardt Tigers	13	8	2	3	34	22	12	26
Macarthur Rams	14	6	5	3	25	19	6	23
Penrith Panthers	13	5	5	3	24	13	11	20
Central Coast Coasties	14	6	2	6	30	21	9	20
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	14	5	3	6	19	23	-4	18
Bankstown City Lions	15	5	3	7	23	30	-7	18
Sutherland Sharks	15	4	5	6	20	21	-1	17
Eastern Suburbs	14	4	5	5	22	29	-7	17
St George Saints	14	2	4	8	17	44	-27	10
Manly Warringah Dolphins	14	2	1	11	13	26	-13	7
Canterbury Marrickville	15	0	3	12	11	43	-32	3

SUPER LEAGUE

Official clothing supplier to the NSW Soccer Federation

ROUND SIXTEEN

Friday 21 April

Leichhardt Tigers v Fairfield Bulls - Lambert Park
Games 3.00pm (1st grade) - 1.00pm (21s) - 11.00am (18s)

Saturday 22 April

Blacktown Demons v Manly Warringah - Gabbie Stadium

Games 6.00pm (1st grade) - 4.00pm (21s) - 2.00pm (18s)

Sutherland Sharks v Eastern Suburbs - Seymour Shaw

Games 7.00pm (1st grade) - 5.00pm (21s) - 3.00pm (18s)

Macarthur Rams v Bonnyrigg W. E. - Lynwood Park

Games 7.00pm (1st grade) - 5.00pm (21s) - 3.00pm (18s)

Central Coast v Bankstown City - North Power Stadium

Game 5.05pm - Plum Park - 2.00pm (21s) - 12.00pm (18s)

Northern Spirit v Canberra Cosmos - North Power Stadium
Game 7.30pm (NSL)

Sunday 23 April

Canterbury M'ckville v St George Saints - Henson Park

Games 3.00pm (1st grade) - 1.00pm (21s) - 11.00am (18s)

Parramatta Eagles v Penrith Panthers - Melita Stadium

Games 1.00pm (21s)-11.00am (18s).

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FIRST GRADE SUPER LEAGUE

CENTRAL COAST COASTIES 5

N Bym 13/62/85/88m, C Roper 69m

EASTERN SUBURBS WANDERERS 1

S Alexopoulos 60m.

ST GEORGE SAINTS 1

E Papageorgiou 51m.

MACARTHUR RAMS 0

LEICHHARDT TIGERS 1

S Karavatakis 78m

BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES 3

J Ghisso 35m, C Luff 60m, S Van

Bentum 73m

PENRITH PANTHERS 3

C Ackerley 13m, own goal 64m, A Picken 88m.

CANTERBURY MARRICKVILLE 1

J Nikas 3m

MANLY WARRINGAH DOLPHINS 2

D Kuhn 88/90m.

PARRAMATTA EAGLES 2

A Anderson 39m, A Mittiga 40m

BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS 0

BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS 1

M Hagger 21m.

FAIRFIELD BULLS 2

M Hoenselaars 30m, M Borg 40m.

SUTHERLAND SHARKS 1

P Wurth 57m.

UNDER 21:

Central Coast 2

St George Saints 2

Leichhardt Tigers 2

Penrith Panthers 1

Manly Warringah Dolphins 0

Bankstown Lions 1

Fairfield Bulls 4

Eastern Suburbs 1

Macarthur Rams 0

Bonnyrigg WE 0

Canterbury M'ckville 2

Parramatta Eagles 0

Blacktown Demons 1

Sutherland Sharks 0

UNDER 18:

Central Coast 1

St George Saints 1

Leichhardt Tigers 4

Penrith Panthers 4

Manly Warringah Dolphins 0

Bankstown Lions 0

Fairfield Bulls 0

Eastern Suburbs 2

Macarthur Rams 5

Bonnyrigg WE 2

Canterbury M'ckville 0

Parramatta Eagles 5

Blacktown Demons 2

Sutherland Sharks 0

WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE ROUND EIGHT RESULTS

Marconi 9

Wollongong Wolves 1

Northern NSW/HAS 4

Sutherland Sharks 2

Gladesville Ravens 1

Nepean Association 2

Nepean Association 0

Macarthur Rams 0

NSW Academy 0

Marconi 1

Manly Warringah 1

Central Coast Lakers 4

Byrned up!

Nathan Byrn scores four to demolish Eastern Suburbs

The Central Coast Coasties finally laid to rest the hoodoo that had hung over them over not being able to win at Plum Park - and they did it in style, returning to their impressive early season form that at one stage had them on top of the Super League table.

Four goals by striker Nathan Byrn and a brilliant individual effort by youngster Cal Roper saw them thrash Eastern Suburbs 5-1.

The match was a highly entertaining affair, with both sides committed to all out attack.

It got off to a dramatic start, with referee Nick Asargiotis colliding with Coasties defender Mark Drysdale and needing assistance from the Coasties trainer Barry Brown.

After twelve minutes Adam Peatey, Roper and Byrn combined to force Con Anastasiadis to make a brave save when he dived at Byrn's feet as he was about to shoot.

East's counter attacked and almost immediately Ben Deighton shot from 20 metres - it was Garry Meier's brilliant save that stopped a certain goal. The ball went straight back up the other end and Anastasiadis was caught in no man's land - ex-Breaker Peter Ritchie rounded him and with the goal wide open he inexplicably put the ball over the bar!

Almost immediately Byrn repeated Ritchie's effort but this time was successful with a shot into the far corner of the net.

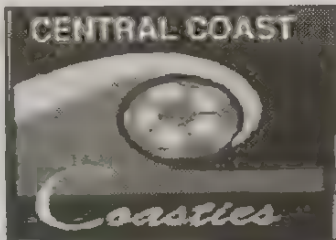
The match continued at a hectic pace, up and down the pitch with both teams trying to score. The goal-keepers were kept busy as they were forced to make

many great saves.

The nearest anyone came to adding to the score before half time was when Ritchie put a cross over to Marcus Steele but his vicious drive hit the crossbar.

The half time break only refreshed both teams and the action didn't abate in the second half.

Sotiri Alexopoulos replaced Daniel Beverley and with his first touch of the ball fired a great shot from the edge of the penalty area. Roper neatly trapped the ball, beat the last defender, and, seeing Anastasiadis off his line, coolly lobbed the ball over his head for an out-standing goal.



The Coasties found their second wind and the Easts' goal came under constant siege. Five minutes later Peatey and Roper combined to get the ball to an unmarked Byrn who had an easy tap in for his second goal.

With five minutes to go Byrn picked up a loose ball in midfield and drew Anastasiadis off his line and neatly slipped the ball into the empty net.

Two minutes to go and Ryan Marshall found Byrn and he repeated his previous effort to score his fourth goal and give Coasties a well deserved 5-1 win.

East's played a great game but appeared to tire badly in the last twenty minutes and the Coasties, finally, have returned to their early season form.

Byrn was the star of the match but both teams should be congratulated on a very entertaining match.

This was the perfect way for the Coasties to tune up for their historic game at Grahame Park (North Power Stadium) this Saturday as the curtain-raiser to the NSL clash between Northern Spirit and Cosmos.

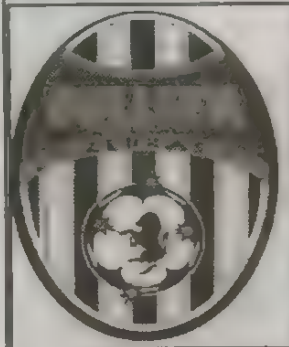
Bulleen and Oakleigh play out drab draw

BULLEEN ZEBRAS 1

Sakaci 74 min.

OAKLEIGH CANNONS 1

Alagiozidis 87 min



Sunday afternoon at the Veneto Club, Bulleen.

By Steven Bricknell

This was a match that both teams were desperate to win in their chase for an elusive Top Four spot. However both teams were left disappointed after a late flurry from Oakleigh saw the points shared in a game that only really came to life in the last twenty minutes.

In a drab opening it was Bulleen who looked the better side early on.

It was Paul Della Rocca who had the first chance to score when he drifted down from defence to get his head to a corner only to see the ball flash past the post.

With Warren Spink out of the Bulleen side with a groin injury it was left to Danny Gjnjdic to do the bulk of the work up front.

It was a role he relished as he provided a constant target up front for the home side all afternoon.

His best chance came midway through the first half when he managed to climb wall to meet a teasing Berkan Sakaci cross only to head narrowly over the bar.

Oakleigh almost opened the scoring right on half time with a long ball from Cameron Pino finding Juan Sastre who looked set to score only for Jamie Cooper in the Bulleen goal to race out and punch the ball to safety.

Oakleigh started the second half well and after only two minutes they almost broke the deadlock when a goalmouth scramble saw Andrew Strapelias poke the ball towards goal

only to have his shot cleared of the line.

It was Bulleen though that opened the scoring, against the run of play a deflected free kick fell to Della Rocca who's shot took another deflection only for the ball to fall to Sakaci who expertly sent a low glancing header into the bottom corner.

The Zebras looked to defend their lead allowing the visitors the bulk of possession but it looked like proving to be to no avail as the match wound down.

Then with only three minutes remaining the Cannons got the equaliser they so richly deserved.

Con Harbis found space in midfield and after beating a defender sent a looping ball forward that beat the offside trap and fell to Ike Alagiozidis who calmly sent the advancing keeper the wrong way and dribbled the ball home to send the travelling Oakleigh fans into ecstasy.

The final whistle sounded minutes later with neither team happy at the final result that puts pressure on them both as we head into the second half of the season.

BULLEEN ZEBRAS:

Cooper, Damiano, Tartaglia, Della Rocca, Mazzini, Latinopoulos (Catalino 69), Sakaci (Thomas 79), Rusmir, Guglielmi, Caimakamis, Gjnjdic.

OAKLEIGH CANNONS:

Flaounas, Rosman, Tsiakos, Calomino, Harbis, Alagiozidis, Daoulas, Wallace (Georgakopoulos 72), Pino, Strapelias (Aretis 88), Sastre (Sevastiadis 82).

Referee: Robert Josifoski

CLARIFICATION

In last week's issue it was claimed that the Victorian Premier League Management Committee had yet to decide whether there would be a finals series this season. This is not correct.

It was announced at the season launch back in January that there would NOT be a finals series, however there has been mounting speculation since the season started that the decision may well be reversed.

Naturally, there are more clubs in favour of the idea than clubs who oppose it, and the writer of last week's article maintains that there is sufficient disquiet on the issue to force the Management Committee to reconsider their stance.

SUPER LEAGUE SOCCER

TUESDAY AFTERNOON 25 APRIL AT ...

PARRAMATTA STADIUM



PARRAMATTA EAGLES

V

PENRITH

PANTHERS



ANZAC DAY TRIPLE HEADER

Parramatta Eagles v Penrith Panthers 3.30pm (First Grade)

Blacktown City Demons v Leichhardt Tigers 5.30pm

Parramatta Power v Wollongong Wolves (NSL) 7.30pm

RESERVED SEATS: GRANDSTAND - ADULTS \$18 - CONCESSION/KIDS \$14

WEST TERRACE - ADULTS \$12 - CONCESSION/KIDS \$10

GENERAL ADMISSION: ADULTS \$10 - CONCESSION/KIDS \$8

Parramatta Eagles v Penrith Panthers (U21/18)

Melita Stadium - Sunday 23 April 1.00pm (U21)/11.00am (U18)

Cavalier approach wins crunch match for Gully

BENTLEIGH GREENS 0 GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS 1

Vassallo 75.

Sunday afternoon at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex,
Cheltenham. Crowd: 1200.

By Markian Jaworsky

In what begun as a bright hot sunny day on Melbourne's Peninsula, Victoria's top two teams clashed for vital premiership points. In a match where the balance swung both ways in an arm-wrestle, even the weather couldn't be easily decided, the match was subjected to total downpour in the second half.

With Green Gully taking just one point in their last two matches, Bentleigh Greens were able to bridge the gap to five points before the day's match.

With VPL teams beginning to tackle Green Gully with full confidence and getting results, a very cunning tactician Ian

Dobson ordered his team to play on the counter. A gamble that paid dividends for the master Green Gully coach.

In the first half neither team found much space anywhere other than the

centre of the ground. In fact, each team produced as many yellow cards as genuine shots on goal, a day for defenders to take praise. Green Gully's Douglas and Bentleigh's Drakos both brilliant for their respective teams.

It was Bentleigh, however, who did manage to come closest. On 32 minutes, Hastie made a dashing run through the centre of the pitch, and fired a long range effort at an almost unguarded Green Gully goal, the shot just passing the right hand post.

On 42 minutes a delightful long ball from McDonagh was only outdone by Karapatsos' magical first touch control, the resulting stab shot at goal again darted just past the Gully upright.

Hastie was everywhere in the second half, and was running like a wild horse in the Bentleigh midfield. Twice he opened up the Green Gully defence for Breslin to shoot, however on the first occasion his pass was over hit, the second time Breslin taking too long to control and finish in front of an open goal.

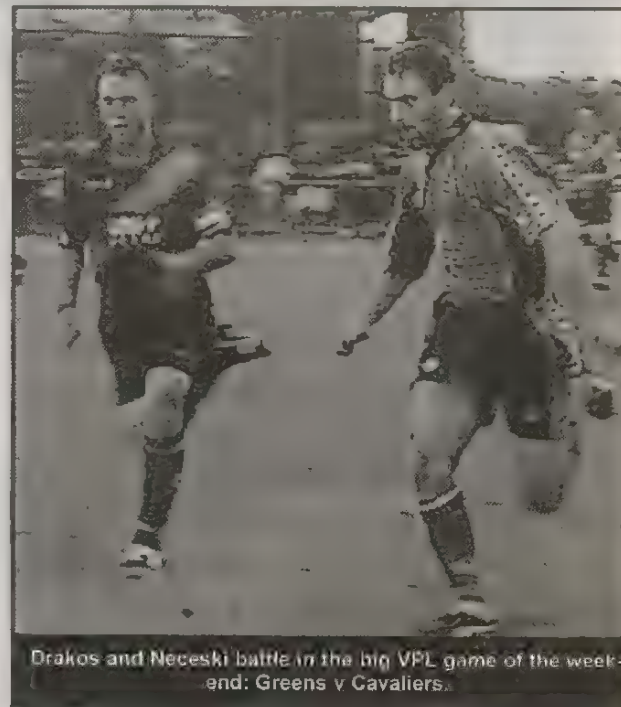
With Green Gully's Zoran Markovski sent off for a second bookable offence, the match appeared to be heading in Bentleigh's favor. But Ian Dobson elected to introduce Atanasovski and Vassallo to the Green Gully midfield, a move bringing the struggle back in Green Gully's favor.

With 15 minutes remaining, Green Gully had the ascendancy in midfield they attacked the Bentleigh defence at full pace on the counter. Atanasovski beat his marker and delivered a probing cross for Sash Becvinovski to chest down and shoot from close range, his shot blocked on the line, but it was Vassallo who hammered in the rebound.

Bentleigh's Markovski ripped a vicious volley from long range in the last 10 minutes, but Green Gully held on in a stirring performance that opens the gap at the top of the table to eight points.

BENTLEIGH GREENS: Clarke, Karapatsos, Micheil, McDonagh, Constantin, Drakos, Breslin, Markovski, Mladenovic, Hastie, Kotsovolosky.

GREEN GULLY: Brian, Spiteri, Markovski, Sevin, Becvinovski, Neceski



Drakos and Neceski battle in the big VPL game of the weekend: Greens v Cavaliers.

(Atanasovski 65), Velkovski (Vassallo 65), Papadopoulos (Marinos 90), Suric, Georgiadis, Douglas.

Referee: Harvey Reece.

Yellows:

Bentleigh: Drakos 15, Kotsovolos 43, McDonagh 90.

Green Gully: Markovski 10+56, Velkovski 10, Suric 55, Becvinovski 84.

Red: Green Gully: Markovski 56.

Man of the Match:

3. DOUGLAS (GREEN GULLY)

2. Drakos (Bentleigh Greens)

1. Hastie (Bentleigh Greens)

VPL RESULTS

FIRST GRADE

FAWKNER BLUES 1
own goal.

PRESTON LIONS 1
Sapazovski.

ALTONA EAST PHOENIX 4

Papadopoulos, Bartol, Antoniadis, De Amicis.

PORT MELBOURNE SHARKS 3

Tzirtis, Collina, Tsolakis.

BENTLEIGH GREENS 0

GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS 1
Vassallo.

BULLEEN ZEBRAS 1

Sakaci.

OAKLEIGH CANNONS 1
Alagiozidis.

RESERVES:

Fawkner Blues 2 Preston Lions 2

Altona E. Pho. 3 Port Melbourne 5

Bentleigh Grns 3 Green Gully 4

Bulleen Zebras 7 Oakleigh C'ons 0

PLAYED MONDAY NIGHT:

Melbourne Raiders v St Albans
Heidelberg United v Altona Magic

FIRST GRADE GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Bentleigh Greens	11	9	1	1	25	7	28
Altona East Phoenix	11	6	2	3	19	12	20
Altona Magic	11	5	3	3	14	13	18
St Albans Saints	10	4	4	2	13	13	16
Preston Lions	10	4	3	3	18	13	15
Oakleigh Cannons	11	3	4	4	13	15	13
Bulleen Zebras	11	3	5	4	17	20	13
Melbourne Raiders	11	3	3	5	15	19	12
Port Melb. Sharks	10	2	5	3	10	11	11
Fawkner Blues	11	3	2	6	18	23	11
Heidelberg United	11	2	4	5	10	16	10
	10	2	1	7	13	23	7

RESERVES

GREEN GULLY CAV

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Bentleigh Greens	11	8	2	1	40	13	26
Port Melbourne Sharks	11	8	0	3	40	17	24
St Albans Saints	11	5	3	3	25	22	18
Preston Lions	10	4	5	1	22	18	17
Altona Magic	11	3	6	2	27	20	15
Altona East Phoenix	10	4	2	4	22	28	14
Bulleen Zebras	11	4	2	5	16	24	14
Fawkner Blues	11	3	3	4	31	24	12
Melbourne Raiders	11	3	3	5	23	30	12
Heidelberg United	10	2	4	4	20	31	10
Oakleigh Cannons	10	1	3	6	12	29	6
	11	1	3	7	9	33	6

VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

www.soccervictoria.org.au

X

ROUND TWELVE

Monday 24 April

St Albans Saints v Altona Magic - Churchill Reserve
3.00(First Grade)/1.00(Reserves)

Heidelberg United v Oakleigh Cannons - Olympic Village
3.00(First Grade)/1.00(Reserves)

Bentleigh Greens v Port Melbourne Sharks - Kingston SC
3.00(First Grade)/1.00(Reserves)

Sunday 30 April

Altona East Phoenix v Fawkner Blues - Paisley Reserve
3.00(First Grade)/1.00 (Reserves)

Bulleen Zebras v Green Gully Cavaliers - Veneto Club
3.00(First Grade)/1.00(Reserves)

Monday 1 May

Melbourne Raiders v Preston Lions - Epping SS
8.15(First Grade)/6.15(Reserves)

Eagles brought down to earth

Kings' ten men hold on for vital win in SA

PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Adelaide Blue Eagles	9	7	1	1	26	8	21	22
Port Lion	9	6	1	2	20	9	11	19
Croydon Kings	9	6	0	3	21	10	11	18
Modbury	9	6	0	3	11	10	1	18
Elizabeth City	9	4	2	3	17	12	5	14
Campbelltown City	9	4	1	4	15	17	-2	13
Adelaide City	9	3	2	4	13	15	-2	11
White City Warriors	9	3	1	5	5	10	-5	10
Cumberland United	9	3	1	5	8	15	-7	10
Metro Stars	9	2	2	5	12	23	-11	8
Raiders	9	2	0	7	10	17	-7	6
West Birkalla	9	1	3	5	10	25	-15	6

STATE LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Olympic FC	9	7	2	0	24	8	16	23
Para Hills Knights	9	5	3	1	22	9	13	18
Port Pirie City	9	5	2	2	25	15	10	17
Salisbury United	9	5	1	3	16	16	0	16
Northern Demons	9	4	2	3	20	17	3	14
Adelaide Cobras	9	4	2	3	15	14	1	14
Noarlunga United	9	4	0	5	12	16	-4	12
Enfield City	9	3	2	4	9	18	-9	11
Western Strikers	9	2	5	2	17	15	2	11
Adelaide Hills	9	2	1	6	15	27	-12	7
Panthers	9	1	1	7	10	22	-12	4

By Donald Campbell and Margaret Bowden

In a sensational match at the new Marden complex, the Blue Eagles came crashing down to earth with their first defeat of the season, going down 1-2 to visitors Croydon Kings who played the second half with only 10 men.

The Kings went 2-0 ahead through Tosh Deptula and Sam Barbaro early in the game, then Frank Sergi pulled one back for the Blue Eagles.

The home side looked set for a win after Croydon defensive kingpin Kenny Tosh was given his marching orders just on half time, but the Kings threw everyone behind the ball, blocking Blue Eagles path to goal.

Yo-yo team Campbelltown Red Devils were held to a 1-1 draw at home by bottom side West Torrens Birkalla. Both goals came in the second half. Scorer for Campbelltown was Larry Piscioneri.

Dusty McGregor posted Birkalla's first point in three weeks. Birkalla coach, ex-Adelaide City star Charlie Villani, is starting to mould his young charges into a team to look out for in the second half of the season.

Modbury Jets made up for its loss last week with a 1-0 win over out-of-form Raiders. Jets coach Duane Gray was counting his blessings that Raiders couldn't find the net, the visitors outnumbering the home team 12-2 with shots on goal.

Joe Blefari scored the only goal for Modbury after 31 minutes. Referee Steve Craggs sent Raiders coach Rocky Aloisi (father of John and Ross) off the bench for dissent!

Elizabeth City Rams, victors last week, suffered a form reversal this week, going down 1-3 at home to second placed Port Lion.

It seems the after effects of the off-pitch turmoil at Ramsey Park are taking their toll. Lone scorer for the Rams was Sam McMillan. Port Lions scorers were D. Sordillo, S. DeGiovanello and Con Antoniou.

Port Lion now have their tails up and will make life difficult for leaders Blue Eagles next week.

Last year's champions Cumberland Foxes had to fight every inch of the way for a 1-1 draw with Adelaide City.

Cumberland squandered easy chances in the first half, going in only 1-0 up at half time, thanks to a Matty Vilios strike. Adelaide City levelled in the second half through Scott Tunbridge, then pressured for the win as the Foxes played some sloppy soccer.

This week's local Cumberland v Birkalla derby could produce a surprise result!

White City Warriors and Metro Stars fought out an entertaining 0-0 draw down at Woodville West.

No goals but plenty of action, with home keeper Anthony Stam positively brilliant in goal. Standout performers for White City were player coach Hugo Gimenez, Simon Dacic and Damian Stam, while Romeo Tatarelli, Paul Simmons and Ryan Moore stood out for Mario Boffa's Stars.

In the State League Olympic decimated Enfield Falcons 7-2 to go five points clear at the top of the league, while early leaders Para Hills Knights suffered their first loss of the season, going down 1-3 to ninth placed Cobras.

Port Pirie City is only one point behind Knights in third spot, defeating bottom placed Seaford Surfers 4-1, while early cellar dweller Salisbury United is now in 4th spot after a 2-0 win over Western Strikers.

In other matches, Northern Demons defeated Noarlunga Bulldogs 4-1 and Adelaide Hills Hawks defeated Panthers 3-2.

The Tsoukalas brothers were in the thick of the action again for Olympic, scoring two goals apiece, while S. Pappas scored a hat trick. Lone scorer for Enfield was M. Sanger with two. Olympic led 2-0 at half time, scoring five in the second half.

Para Hills Knights led 1-0 at half time through a goal from B. Agars, but too many lost chances, a missed penalty and hav-

ing a player sent off let Cobras back into the game.

They stung the Knights in the second half with strikes from H. Skoumbros, N. Konstandopoulos and C. Kamitevis to take the points.

Knights coach Eric Norman was sent over the fence for his antics on the coach's bench.

Port Pirie City gave Seaford Surfers a soccer lesson, going 3-0 up at half time. The Surfers fought back in the second half, but failed to catch the wave.

Scorers for Port Pirie were Vince De Goia (jnr) 2, A. Castello and Steve Farrugia. Surfers' lone scorer was S. Huybregts.

Northern Demons steamrolled Noarlunga Bulldogs in the second half, with some help from the visitors.

Player-coach Ricky Ceracchio was again the Demons' star performer. The Demons were one goal up after only six minutes, but the Bulldogs levelled in the 29th.

The game was deadlocked until the 72nd minute when the Demons scored, then in the space of three minutes, the Bulldogs scored 2 own goals to hand Demons a 4-1 victory! Scorers for the Demons were Sam Salvemini, Joe Gaudio and TOG 2. Scorer for the Bulldogs was Peter Francis.

Western Strikers went down 0-2 to a solid Salisbury side, who made it five wins on the trot.

The Strikers had most of the play but couldn't find the net. Salisbury's Dave Robson scored from a one-on-one with the keeper in the first half, then Trevor Elliot emulated his team mate's effort in the second.

Both sides will be depleted next week after having one player apiece sent off, and sharing 9 cautions.

Adelaide Hills came from behind twice to record only their second win of the season against Panthers.

This was a tooth and nail battle to get off the bottom of the table, marred by some inexplicable refereeing decisions.

Both teams had very young players sent off late in the second half. Both coaches, ex-NSL players Craig Leith, Hills, and Raymond Blair, Panthers, were also spoken to by the ref. Panthers went 1-0 up through a Rossi strike against the run of play in the first half.

Hills levelled early in the second half through J. Rodriguez, but Kwas put the Panthers ahead again with a towering header from a corner kick.

Ex-Adelaide City player Anthony Best flattened old team mate Andy Kay in the box to give Hills a penalty. Matt Hawthorn put the spot kick away to level.

Hills scored the winner at the death, Kay netting with a low shot from a corner. Ironically, he injured his knee celebrating and was stretchered off! Panthers keeper Brenton Fisher pulled off two magnificent saves to deny Hills a bigger score.

LG to sponsor Bill Turner Cup

Soccer Australia is pleased to announce its major partner, LG Electronics, as the new naming-rights sponsor of the LG Bill Turner Cup.

The Cup, which provides a major competition for secondary schools around Australia, is part of LG Electronics' on-going commitment to promote soccer at the grass roots level, as well as at the National Teams Level.

Competition President Bill Turner is extremely pleased to have LG Electronics on board.

"It is certainly an honour to have such a world famous company in LG Electronics recognise the LG Bill Turner Cup as a leading football competition in Australia," he said.

"The LG Sponsorship, allied to the recognition that Soccer Australia gives to the competition's talent identification programme, gives us the enthusiasm to continually reach for greater heights."

What you should know about the LG Bill Turner Cup:

The Cup was devised to provide a major competition for secondary schools players of 15 years and under. Up to this point in time, com-

petitions had been predominantly open age competitions which restricted younger players and had the effect of turning players to other sports which catered for differing age levels.

The competition was first held in 1979 when a group of teachers organised a knock-out competition of 34 teams. The number of teams competing has since grown to a maximum of 738 teams (1998) and is open to all State and independent school systems.

While the geographical focus up to now has been in NSW, teams as far as North Queensland, Northern Victoria and Broken Hill have participated, with the vision set to expand into Victoria, South Australia & Western Australia.

The LG Bill Turner Cup is a non-profit organisation promoting fair play, good sportsmanship & good citizenship through the handbook guidelines, administrators and match officials. Ideals include promoting drug-free lives, team-work, acceptance of authority and being aware of & playing within the rules of the game.

Previous participants in the competition have included Mark Bosnich (LG Soccerroo & Manchester United), Paul Okon (LG Soccerroo

& Fiorentina), Harry Kewell (LG Soccerroo & Leeds United) & Richard Johnson (LG Soccerroo & Watford).

The Cup is named after the founder of the competition.

BILL TURNER CUP RESULTS:

QUALIFYING MATCH:

Heathcote 1 St John Bosco 0

ROUND ONE:

Manly 6 Beacon Hill 0
North Sydney 3 Balgowlah Boys 1
Asquith Boys 4 Killara 1
James Ruse 2 St Leo's College 1
St Pius X 5 Malva 0
Ramada College 4 Pittwater 3
Heathcote 2(5) Caringbah 2(4)
James Cook Boys 5 Jannall 1
Blakehurst 0(3) Marist Bros Penhurst 0(2)
Caringbah 2 Port Hacking 1
JJ Cahill 9 Vaucluse 0

Hurstville Boys 4 Sydney Tech 0
Waverley College 6 Sydney Grammar 2
All Saints Lakemba 3 St Andrews Cathedral 0
Moriah College 2 St Spyridons College 0
Northmead 4 Parramatta 0
Graham 3 Seven Hills 0
Greystanes 3 Parramatta Marist 0
Quakers Hill 4 Doonside 0
Plumpton 3 Mitchell 0
St Clair 3 St Columbas Springwood 0
Penrith 1 Cranbrook 0
John Wycliffe Christian 2 McCarthy Catholic 0
Jamison 7 Glenmore Park 1
St Dominics College 7 Hawksbury 1
Bade Polding 2 Winmalene 0
Bonnyrigg 2 Patrician Bros Fairfield 1
East Hills Boys 5 Bass 1
St Euphemia 3 DLS Revesby 0
Fairvale 3 Miller 1
Bossley Park 4 All Saints Liverpool 1
John Therry 3 Ambervale 2
Lurnea 3 Thomas Reddall 2
Airds 5 Hurlstone Agriculture 2
Elizabeth Macarthur 2 Leumeah 1
Fairfield 3 Macquarie Fields 1

MENAPI HITS HAT-TRICK

By Jeremy Ruane

The Ansett National Club Championship seems set to be a closely contested affair throughout the coming weeks, after fourth round defeats for the leading two teams allowed the chasing pack to close the gap, as a result of which the top six teams are covered by just three points at the end of an intriguing weekend's action.

University-Mt. Wellington remain at the top of the table, but their unbeaten start to the season came unstuck at Napier City Rovers. Scoreless after forty-five minutes, the 54th minute dismissal of Sean Armstrong was an

incident from which Uni-Mount never recovered at Park Island, Napier netting twice in the next five minutes through Leon Birnie and Richard Gearey.

Birnie added a second goal eleven minutes from the end to wrap up Napier's 3-0 win, a result which sees them climb into second spot, ahead of Manawatu and Nelson Suburbs on goal difference.

Manawatu's unbeaten start to the season went west - literally - at Waitakere City. Ryan Dawkins crowned his 150th top flight appearance with an eleventh minute header, an early lead to which Jason Collett added twenty-two minutes later, as the provincial combination gave as good as they got, but without having the necessary cutting edge in attack to overly trouble Steve Cain's side.

Hope was forthcoming for Manawatu fifteen minutes from time, when Shane Cunliffe struck to halve Waitakere's advantage. But there was no further change to the scoreline, Waitakere's 2-1 win propelling them to sixth spot on the league ladder.

Just behind Manawatu on eight points are Nelson Suburbs, whose 4-1 bonus point-scoring triumph over Christchurch City was due in no small part to a hat-trick from the league's leading goalscorer, Commens Menapi.

He struck in the 29th, 70th and 87th minutes to condemn the Cantabrians to their third defeat of the season, Paul Brydon also getting in on the act for Nelson thirteen minutes

from time. City's Dave Gray was a hero turned villain for Ian Marshall's side. After scoring in the 43rd minute, he was sent-off six minutes later to leave Christchurch with just ten men for much of the second half.

In the other South Island action, Dunedin Technical's 33rd minute goal from Phil Kelly completed the scoring in a drawn affair with Miramar Rangers, who earned their point from the 1-1 draw through Gary Minshull's fifth minute opener at the New Caledonian Ground.

The Central Auckland derby lived up to pre-match expectations, Central United and Metro turning on an enthralling affair at Kiwitea Street. Central started like a house on fire, and despite making two injury-enforced substitutions inside the first twenty minutes, scored as many goals in that time.

Campbell Banks punished a Grant Schofield fumble to open the scoring after fourteen minutes, while Daniel Koprivic extended Central's advantage five minutes later from the penalty spot, although it must be said the offence was a somewhat dubious one.

Bottom-of-the-table Metro weathered the early onslaught, before gradually imposing themselves on the game, largely through the promptings of Sean Hird, a former player-coach at both clubs, whose influence on the match grew with every passing minute.

Graham Green's 49th minute penalty pulled Metro back into the match on the scoreboard, and set up a gripping second half, during which Central relied greatly on the experience of All Whites past and present, Michael Ridenton and Ross Nicholson, to repel everything Metro could muster.

Kevin Hagan's side richly deserved a point for their efforts, but returned home empty-handed, Central's 2-1 victory pushing them up to fifth spot on the league table, and setting up the match of the round on Easter Sunday, as they visit league leaders University-Mt. Wellington.

Across town, Waitakere City entertain Metro, while Napier City Rovers travel to Miramar Rangers. Manawatu host Nelson Suburbs, while Christchurch City and Dunedin Technical draw swords in the Garden City.

NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

ROUND FOUR RESULTS

Central United	2-1	Metro
C. Banks (14) G. Green (49, pen)		D. Koprivic (19, pen)
Dunedin Technical	1-1	Miramar Rangers
P. Kelly (33)		G. Minshull
Napier City Rovers	3-0	Uni-Mt. Wellington
L. Birnie (56, 79) R. Gearey (59)		
Nelson Suburbs	4-1	Christchurch City
C. Menapi (29, 70, 87) D. Gray (43)		P. Brydon (77)
Waitakere City	2-1	Manawatu
R. Dawkins (11)		S. Cunliffe (75)
J. Collett (33)		

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	BP	Pts
Uni-Mount	4	3	0	1	7	5	+2	0	9
Napier C.R.	4	2	1	1	7	1	+6	1	8
Manawatu	4	2	1	1	10	5	+5	1	8
Nelson Suburbs	4	2	1	1	8	6	+2	1	8
Central United	4	2	1	1	5	4	+1	0	7
Waitakere City	4	2	0	2	8	7	+1	0	6
Miramar Rangers	4	1	2	1	6	7	-1	0	5
Dunedin Tech.	4	1	1	2	2	6	-4	0	4
Christchurch C.	4	1	0	3	4	10	-6	0	3
Metro	4	0	1	3	3	9	-6	0	1

ROUND FIVE FIXTURES (APRIL 23):

Christchurch City v Dunedin - Technical Garrick Park, Christchurch
Manawatu v Nelson Suburbs - Memorial Park, Palmerston Nth
Miramar Rangers v Napier City Rovers - Centennial Park, Wellington
University-Mt. Wellington v Central United - Bill McKinlay Park, Auckland
Waitakere City v Metro - Fred Taylor Park, Auckland

Tibet for 2008, says HG!

By Aidan Ormond

TV and radio star HG Nelson enjoyed the movie 'The Cup' and predicted after its premiere it would lead to a renaissance in Tibet's footballing fortunes.

"I'd like to think that such a movie," he explained with tongue firmly in cheek, "would lead to a successful Tibetan World Cup campaign for, perhaps not 2004, but certainly 2008."

He added after the premiere in Sydney last week that the Socceroos could take something from the "philosophy of those football-crazy monks."

SBS TV's Robert Grasso, Kyle Patterson and Andrew Orsati also agreed that it was a wonderful film.

"It was human and very refreshing with a nice touch of humour," said Grasso.

Orsati noted the movie's "innocence" while Patterson enjoyed the way the film's "subtle approach to its message was delivered."

Patterson added that some Soccer Australia officials should be sent to a Tibetan monastery!

They all gave the movie an eight or nine out of ten.

Actress Tracey Mann, who had a small role as a World Cup presenter said 'The Cup' was charming.

CHEEKY MONK(EY) STARS IN THE CUP

By Aidan Ormond

If the measure of a movie's box-office potential is the amount of sex, violence and special effects weaved into the plot then surely 'The Cup' would have been viewed as a risky venture.

Added to this were the problems of filming in the remote Himalayas (the daily rushes could not be seen plus there were floods and electricity blackouts), the cast of mainly non-actors - real-life Monks from the Chokling Monastery - and not a single Western movie name to draw in audiences.

Even the director, Bhutanese Khyentse Norbu, was a first-timer. In fact, Norbu is one of the most important incarnate lamas in the Tibetan Buddhist tradition (he was recognized at age seven as the incarnation of the revered Jamyang Khyentse Wangpo.)

This was the first feature length movie in the Tibetan language made by a pre-eminent lama of the Tibetan Buddhist tradition.

Hardly your typical Hollywood director.

"I was nervous at first because some of the

monks had never seen a camera in their life," said Norbu to *Inside Soccer* yesterday.

"But from the first day they really did very well. And monks of the Tibetan Buddhist culture are just human beings, they like things like soccer," he added.

It is for these reasons that the success of 'The Cup' has surprised many, although when you see it you will realize why this Australia/Bhutan co-production caused such a stir at the Cannes and Noosa Film Festivals.

The movie is a simple yet profound real-life tale told with warmth and charm. Set against the backdrop of Chinese oppression of Tibet, 'The Cup' revolves around a monastery-in-exile in the Himalayas. Palden (Kunzang Nyima) and Nyima (Pema Tshundup) have escaped from Tibet and find their way to the monastery.

They are given a spartan room with the film's star, the cheeky and footy-mad Orgyen, played with great style by the impish Jamyang Lodro.

Orgyen, paying lip-service to his monastic studies, dreams of football, has pictures of stars on his wall and plots to leave the monastery during to watch his heroes at France 98 on the crackly villagers' old TV.

However his teacher, the strict Geko (Orgyen Tobgyal) and the sagely Abbot Lama Chonjor are onto Orgyen and his football-inspired plans.

Yet Geko himself - unbeknown to Orgyen -



Orgyen proudly checks out his Ronaldo singlet.

has a soft spot for football. And Lama Chonjor seems curious about the concept of football ("they play for a cup?" he asks. Geko as he sips tea from his own cup.)

Will the little would-be-monk get to see Ronaldo play in the final? Well, you'll just have to see it.

Suffice to say everyone is happy in the end, with Orgyen's adventures serving as a vehicle through which we learn some Tibetan wisdom on life, love and capitalism (the scenes with the Indian satellite dish salesman are touching yet funny.)

This is a movie adults and children will enjoy - it manages to distill some of life's big questions through simple storytelling, and the breathtaking scenery is beautifully shot by Australian Paul Warren.

Oh, and those monks have a great sense of humour!

The Cup opens nationally April 20, rated G.

Free tickets to 'The Cup'

Send a stamped self-addressed envelope to Inside Soccer 'The Cup' PO Box 3889 Parramatta 2124. We have 10 double passes in total for Dendy cinemas in capital cities (not in Darwin or Hobart). First 10 entries will receive an in-season double to the movie 'The Cup'.



Luke Casserly: will be playing in the UEFA Cup qualifying rounds later in the year.

By Roger Sleeman

On the eve of Northern Spirit's likely union with Glasgow Rangers, Luke Casserly also contemplates his future in professional football.

Casserly has agreed terms with Swedish club A.I.K. Stockholm and is expected to begin his European adventure this week when he departs for the Northern Lights on a three year

STOCKHOLM MY NEW HOME

Spirit's Luke Casserly talks to Roger Sleeman on the eve of the Socceroo's move to Sweden

contract.

The Northern Spirit utility defender has benefited enormously by playing as a full professional for the past two seasons. This comes on top of outstanding performances during the 1996 Atlantic Olympics.

His selection in the Australian team that played in the Chile tournament two months ago was a turning point in his career as he conclusively proved he could match it at the highest level.

In this interview with Roger Sleeman, Luke Casserly discusses his career move to Europe, his experiences in Australian football and his ambitions to become a regular in the Socceroo squad on the road to World Cup 2002.

ROGER SLEEMAN: Does the A.I.K. contract fulfil a dream come true?

LUKE CASSERLY: Since my first years at Marconi juniors twelve years ago, I always wanted to play full-time football at the highest level. Part of the plan was realised two seasons ago when I left Marconi and signed full-time terms with Northern Spirit.

Now the opportunity to play overseas has materialised, I can say all the hard work has finally paid dividends. I'll be able to reap the rewards that every Australian player aims for, not only in a financial sense but in terms of recognition which players rarely receive in Australia.

R.S. As a spectator I witnessed your excellent displays at the 1996 Olympics in the first round matches in Florida. Nevertheless, you've always been underrated by the so-called experts in our game. Can you account for this?

L.C. When I was first selected in the Marconi first team squad in 1991/1992, I was amongst the few Marconi juniors who had graduated through the ranks in a ten year period.

At the time Ufuk Talay was receiving a lot of publicity because he was in the first team squad while still a schoolboy but people didn't

mention I was also still at school.

I always regarded myself as a quiet achiever and I've also put the hard work in, on the training pitch and in matches. I haven't gone out of my way looking for publicity but maybe that's the nature of defenders.

They just do a job week in and week out and aren't supposed to have flair. They're merely on the pitch to stop the opposition from scoring and winning games.

R.S. During the 1996 Olympics you were used effectively as a wingback in the three first round matches. Do you prefer to play in the wingback role, rather than as a central defender and did Northern Spirit limit its attacking options in the last two seasons when you played in a defensive role?

L.C. The coaching staff was more than happy with my performances at the Olympics, particularly in the last match against Spain when I had a free role to go forward. Naturally, I prefer the wingback role because I do become more involved in the game but some coaches have regarded my pace as a big advantage in the centre of defence.

At the start of this season with Spirit I was playing in the back with Rudan and Bingley and it worked well. Bingley and I love to attack so we alternated going forward but always made sure there was cover if one of us was caught out.

Certainly you need greater discipline in the centre of defence but you're not completely restricted in attacking terms when you play with defenders like Matthew Bingley.

Originally, Graham Arnold played me in the centre of defence but eventually saw me as more valuable in the wingback role, particularly based on my performances earlier in the season in home matches against South Melbourne and Perth.

In those matches I was able to provide the type of service which David Seal thrives on, when I got to the byline and knocked in several crosses just outside the six yard box. Also, my goal against Perth confirmed if I get a sight on goal I can hit the target with ease.

R.S. In Australia's final group match in Orlando against Spain at the 1996 Olympics, I witnessed one of the most dubious coaching decisions in modern football, when Eddie Thomson replaced Joe Spiteri with Danny Tiatto when Australia was leading Spain 2-0. Can you explain Thomson's decision in view of the fact that Spiteri and Viduka were carving the Spanish defence apart?

L.C. There was no discussion of the substitution in the dressing room at half-time. I can only surmise that Thomson thought we should hold on to the 2-0 lead because he believed Spain would mount an all out attack against us after conceding two goals so early in the match. Consequently, by employing Tiatto in midfield, he thought he could close the game up.

In fairness to Thomson, Raul's free kick just before halftime, which made the score 2-1, was a world class goal. We also had several chances in the second half to win the match.

In hindsight we could all say if we had made it to the second round, Thomson would've been a hero. Conversely, I've always believed if you have a winning combination you shouldn't change it.

R.S. Was your selection in the national team instrumental in gaining a contract with A.I.K.?

L.C. It certainly hastened the process because the Swedish club viewed videos of my performances in Chile which convinced them I should be given trials.

However, the initial contact was made by

my agent when A.I.K. was looking for a utility defender and they were chasing the signature of Mark Fish, the South African and Bolton defender.

When they made no headway with Fish, my agent suggested I could fulfill the role for the club. Ironically, it was Matthew Bingley's injury which led to my selection for Chile that put me in the spotlight.

R.S. You spent two weeks on trial at A.I.K. before you were offered terms. Can you relate these events and do you believe you may move elsewhere in Europe before your contract ends?

L.C. I played two trial matches at A.I.K. during the two week stint. I alternated between left back and right midfield and convinced the coach Stuart Baxter that the club should sign me.



Luke Casserly goes past Paul Trimboli earlier this season.

The club plays in the national stadium which is a 30,000 all seater. The average crowd is 15,000 but for the derby matches the ground is always at capacity.

The facilities are well beyond anything you could see in Australia so there's no reason for me not to succeed.

Later in the year we play in the qualifying rounds of the U.E.F.A. Cup so I have a lot to play for.

I certainly haven't discounted the possibility of moving to another European league within the three years. The main thing is, I've finally got a foot in the door to make a career in Europe and anything beyond that is a bonus.

R.S. In view of your recent selection in the Australian squad, will the club release you for international duty and do you think you can gain selection for 2002 if Australia qualifies?

L.C. Within reason my availability shouldn't be a problem. With the Confederation Cup eliminations at the end of the year I'm looking forward to more international football.

Apart from the Chile series, it was a great experience to come on as a substitute late in the game against the Czech Republic.

Now that I'm in Europe my game will improve and I'm hoping Frank Farina will monitor my progress. A place in the squad for 2002 would be the fitting finale for my career and serve notice to any Aussie youngster that all that hard work to reach the top is really worthwhile.

Only time will tell!

COMING SOON ...



Remo Nogarotto

talks the
Rangers deal
and more with

IS's Aidan Ormond

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE - ROUND THIRTY ONE

MARCONI STALLIONS v PERTH GLORY

1 Michael Turnbull	1 Tom Tomich
2 Chad Gibson	2 Robert Trajkovski
3 Mark Babic	3 Jamie Harnwell
4 Dominic Longo	4 Aurelio
5 Pan-Keum Kim	5 Vinko Buljbasic
6 Christian Care	6 Gareth Naven
7 Darren McDonald	7 Scott Miller
8 Zeljko Babic	8 Troy Halpin
9 Brad Maloney	9 Alistair Edwards
10 Mike Smith	10 Bobby Despotoski
11 Danny Invincible	11 Kasey Wehrman
12 Buddy Farah	12 Peter Buljan
13 Pierluigi di Gia	13 James Afkos
14 Alex Duric	14 Dion Valle
15 Francis Awaritefe	15 Edgar Junior
16 Harry Karl	16
17 Brendan Renaud	17 Hamilton Thorp
18 David Aceski	18 John Carbone
19 Paolo Marchesini	19 Tony Franken
20 Kris Trajanovski	20 Ivan Ergic
21 Vlado Zoric	21 Ljubo Milicevic
22 Josala Junlor Sauturaga	22 Jason Petkovic
23	23 Aaron Cole
24	24
25	
26 Daniel Severino	

Venue: Marconi Stadium - Friday 21 April 2000 6.00PM
 Head to Head: Played 10 Stallions wins: 0 Glory wins: 5 Draws 5
 Last Week: Stallions 4-1 home win over Falcons.
 Glory 1-2 home loss to Breakers.

SOUTH MELBOURNE v SYDNEY UNITED

1 Milan Udvaracz	1 John Crawley
2 Steve Iosifidis	2 Ray Younis
3 Fausto de Amicis	3 Mark Racker
4 Nick Orlic	4 Velimir Kupresak
5 Con Blatsis	5 Eddie Bosnar
6 David Clarkson	6 Vince Savocca
7 Steve Panopoulos	8 Nahuel Arrarte
8 Vaughan Coveny	9 Mario Jermen
9 Paul Trimboli	10 Ante Moric
10 Michael Curcija	11 Tom Pondeljak
11 John Anastasiadis	12 Tom Maric
12 Richie Alagich	13 Matthew Zec
13 Adrian Cuzzupe	14 Kain Rastall
14 Anthony Magnacca	15 Aytec Genc
15 Goran Lozanovski	16 Joe Moric
16	17 Nick Bosevski
17 Jim Tsekinis	18 Steve Bozinovski
18 Robert Liparoti	19 Greg Saric
19 Tasos Psonis	20 Steve Tolios
20 Chris Jones	21 Zvonko Usljebrka
21 Rade Culbirk	22 Colin Luff
22 Mustafa Mustafa	23 Terry Palapanis
23 Chris Roche	24 Andy Rakic
24 Andy Vlahos	25 Ante Deak
	26 Fernando Pellegrino
	27 Ante Deur
	30 Brett Hughes

Venue: Bob Jane Stadium - Saturday 22 April 2000 6.00PM
 Head to Head: Played 34 South wins: 13 United wins: 16 Draws 5
 Last Week: South 3-5 away win over Carlton.
 United 4-0 away loss to Power.

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS v CARLTON

1 Bob Catlin	1 Dean Anastasiadis
2 Shane Pryce	2 Dave McPherson
3 Andrew Roberts	3 Craig Deans
4 Adam Sanderson	4 Simon Colosimo
5 Todd McManus	5 Sean Douglas
6 Glenn Sprod	6 Andrew Marth
7 Travis Dodd	7 Stuart Slater
8 Mark Wilson	8 Mark Atkinson
9 Chris Tancheski	9 Alex Moreira
10 John Buonavoglia	10 Lubo Lapsansky
11 Luke Tomich	11 Archie Thompson
12 Robert Anglevski	12 Mike Conroy
13 Brad Wleczorek	13 Steve Martin
14 Greg Owens	14 John Markovski
15 Joshua Ferguson	15 Con Anthopoulos
16 Vasko Trpceviski	16 David Terminello
17 Paul Wheeler	17 Joe Tricarico
18 Andrew Harper	18
19 Chad Mansley	19
20 Bradley Swancott	20
21 Peter Juchniewicz	21 Andrew Packer
22 Glen Moore	22 Angelo Moutsopoulos
23 Damien Smith	23 Colin Azzopardi
24	24 Joshua Kennedy
25	25 Daniel Vasilevski
26	26 Steve Horvat

Venue: Breakers Stadium - Saturday 22 April 2000 7.30PM
 Head to Head: Played 5 Breakers wins: 1 Carlton wins: 2 Draws 2
 Last Week: Breakers 1-2 away win over Glory.
 Carlton 3-5 home loss to South Melbourne.

WOLLONGONG WOLVES v BRISBANE STRIKERS

1 Les Pogliacomi	1 Clint Bolton
2 George Souris	2 Glenn Gwynne
3 Alvin Ceccoli	3 Shane Stefanutto
4 Robert Stanton	4 Andrew Davidson
5 David Cervinski	5 Matthew Belli
6 Matt Horsley	6 Brad Ditton
7 Paul Reid	7 Shane Smeltz
8	8 David Pillc
9	9 Paul Foster
10 Stuart Young	10 Wayne Srhoj
11 Scott Chipperfield	11 Chay Hews
12 Neil Harlock	12 Peter Dwyer
13 Noel Spencer	13 Stuart McClaren
14 Saso Petrovski	14 Jade North
15 David Huxley	15 Adam Webber
16 Peter Lahanas	16 Peter Grierson
17 Esala Masi	17 Jeromy Harris
18 Paul O'Grady	18 Nick Meredith
19 Paul Dimech	19 Wade Baldwin
20 Daniel Beltrame	20
21 Mark Robertson	21 Jon McKain
22 Ben Blake	
23 Dino Mennillo	

Venue: Brandon Park - Saturday 22 April 2000 6.30PM
 Head to Head: Played 18 Wolves wins: 4 Strikers wins: 10 Draws 4
 Last week: Wolves 0-6 away win over Cosmos.
 Strikers 2-2 home draw with Olympic.

NORTHERN SPIRIT v CANBERRA COSMOS

2 Robert Enes	2 David Millin
3 Matthew Langdon	3 Toplica Popovich
4 Matthew Bingley	4 Danny Burt
5 Mark Rudan	5 Nicholas Purdue
6 Luke Casserley	6 Jason Polak
7 Robbie Slater	7 David Winnie
8 Tony Perinich	8 Daniel Watkins
9 David Seal	9 Alex Castro
10 Nicola Berti	10 Michael Musitano
11 Troy Cranney	11 David Arranz
12 Simon Catanzaro	12 Brian Hamilton
13 Phillip Moss	14 Harry James
14 Shane Lyons	15 Glen Kolpak
15 Anthony Faria	16 Illja Prenzowski
17 Paul Bilokapic	17 Robbie Hooker
18 Paul Wearne	18 Nikola Mrdja
20 Jess Van Stratten	19 Geoff Howarth
21 Michael Cunico	20 Grant Barlow
22 Paul Henderson	21 Scott Conlon
23 Adam Snyder	22 Elliot Zwangobani
24 Elvis Olic	23 Andrew Clark
25 Ryan Griffiths	24 PJ Roberts
26 Jack Sobczyk	25 Ivo De Jesus
27 Adam Griffiths	26 Gabriel Gonzalez
29 Ian Crook	30 Angelo Konstantinou
30 Sean Cranney	
31 Michael Prentice	

Venue: North Power Stadium, Gosford - Saturday 22 April 2000 7.30PM
 Head to Head: Played 3 Spirit wins: 2 Cosmos wins: 1 Draws 0
 Last week: Spirit 4-2 away loss to Force.
 Cosmos 0-6 home loss to Wolves.

GIPPSLAND FALCONS v MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

1 Les Pogliacomi	2 Joey Rayher
2 George Souris	3 Ivan Jolic
3 Alvin Ceccoli	4 Ante Kovacevic
4 Robert Stanton	5 Jason Vukadin
5 David Cervinski	6 John Didulica
6 Matt Horsley	7 Mark Silic
7 Paul Reid	8 Dragi Nastevski
8	9 Ivan Kelic
9	10 Paul Urlovic
10 Stuart Young	11 Zoltan Zold
11 Scott Chipperfield	12 Murtala Toyin Abbas
12 Neil Harlock	13 Lance Plunkett
13 Noel Spencer	14 Paul Magdic
14 Saso Petrovski	15 Ransford Banini
15 David Huxley	16 Alex Kiratzoglou
16 Peter Lahanas	17 Brandon Vassalo
17 Esala Masi	18 Rody Vargas
18 Paul O'Grady	19 Zlatko Maglic
19 Paul Dimech	20 Martin John
20 Daniel Beltrame	21 Zeljko Susa
21 Mark Robertson	22 Slavko Rados
22 Ben Blake	23 Michael Reda
23 Dino Mennillo	24 Hrvoje Matkovic
	25 Adrian Cervinski
	26 Marko Prskalo
	30 Lupce Acevski

Venue: Mobil Park - Saturday 22 April 2000 7.00PM
 Head to Head: Played 16 Falcons wins: 6 Knights wins: 8 Draws 2
 Last week: Falcons 4-1 away loss to Stallions.
 Knights 4-0 home win over Kingz.

LIVE SATURDAY 22 APRIL 5.30
C7 SPORT CHANNEL 12

**FOOTBALL KINGZ
 V ADELAIDE CITY FORCE**



KINGZ

- 1
- 2 Che Bunce
- 3 Riki Van Steeden
- 4 Jon Lammers
- 5 Jonathon Perry
- 6 Marcus Stergiopoulos
- 7 Wynton Rufer
- 8 Chris Jackson
- 9 Fred de Jong
- 10 Jeff Campbell
- 11 Robbie Middleby
- 12 Harry Ngata
- 13 Levent Osman (below)
- 14 Batrum Suri
- 15 Ivan Vicelich
- 16 Lee Jones
- 17 Mark Elrick
- 18 Stuart Riddle
- 19 Leigh Kenyon
- 20 Jason Batty
- 21 David Moya
- 22 Aaron Silva
- 23 Simon Eaddy
- 24 Daniel Duke
- 28 Aaron Lines
- 32 Noah Hickey

FORCE

- 1
- 2 Gianluca Ligati
- 3 Ivan Zelic
- 4
- 5 Alex Tobin
- 6 Carlo Talladira
- 7 Damian Mori
- 8 Carl Veart
- 9 Nick Sabljak
- 10 Aurelio Vidmar
- 11
- 12 Nathan Day
- 13 John Fusco
- 14 Michael Cartwright
- 15 Louis Brain
- 16 Matthew Kemp
- 17 Angelo Costanzo
- 18 Bradley Hassell
- 19 Claudio Pelosi
- 20 Adrian Cagalj
- 21 Dong Ki Kim
- 22 Shane Thompson
- 23 Jonathan Lihou



Venue: North Harbour Stadium
Saturday 22 April 2.30PM
Head-to-Head: 3
Kingz: 1
Force: 2
Draws: 0
Last Week: Kingz 4-0 away loss to Knights.
 Force 4-2 home win over Spirit.



SATURDAY 22 APRIL 7.30
C7 SPORT CHANNEL 12

**SYDNEY OLYMPIC v
 PARRAMATTA POWER**



OLYMPIC

- 1 Jim Kourtis
- 2 Scott Thomas
- 3 Chris Zoricich
- 4 Peter Tsekenis
- 5 Scott Baillie
- 6 Ante Juric
- 7 Zlatko Arambasic
- 8 Marcus Phillips
- 9 Pablo Cardozo
- 10 Brett Emerton (below)
- 11 Chris Kalantzis
- 12 Sebastian Sinozic
- 13
- 14 Gabriel Mendez
- 15 Lindsay Wilson
- 16 George Goutzoulis
- 17 Paul Kohler
- 18 John Kyriazopoulos
- 19 Nick Carle
- 20 George Bouhoutsos
- 21 Lee Miot
- 22 Pete Zorbas
- 23 Dylan Macallister
- 24 Norman Tome
- 25 Hussein Jomaa
- 26 c
- 27 John Perosh
- 30 John Karoubas

POWER

- 1 Andrew Crews
- 2 David Barrett
- 3 Michael Santalab
- 4 Steve Eagleton
- 5 Richard Plesa
- 6 Joe Vrkic
- 7 Jacob Burns
- 8 Walter Ardone
- 9 Mile Sterjovski
- 10 Joel Griffiths
- 11 Steve Berry
- 12 Stephen Laybutt
- 13 Milan Blagojevic
- 14 Jon Angelucci
- 15 Danny Townsend
- 16 Mark Byrnes
- 17 Danny Kukucka
- 18 Lachlan Campbell
- 19 Matt Thompson
- 20 Barney Smith
- 21 Ahmad Elrich
- 23 John Gibson
- 24
- 27
- 28 Peter Bennett
- 29
- 30 Mike Gibson



Venue: Belmore Sports Ground
Saturday 22 April 6.30PM
Head to Head: 1
Olympic: 1
Power: 0
Draws: 0
Last Week: Olympic 2-2 away draw with Strikers.
 Power 4-0 home win over Sydney United.



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